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SOCCER WEEKLY

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Demon Brown ends hoodoo

Thomson's Olympic Squad

Brisbane Strikers in action against Adelaide City.

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Adelaide City	v	Sth Melbourne	Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
Heidelberg Utd	v	Wollongong City	Olympic Village	5.45pm
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– THE EDITOR

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ASF denies backdown

BY ALFRED HIATT

Australian Soccer Federation chairman John Constantine strongly denied suggestions that the ASF had backed down over the issue of reducing the number of teams in the National League.

Constantine said that contrary to media reports, the ASF had never planned to install a 10-team league by next season.

Constantine stated: "We never made a decision to reduce the number of clubs in the league."

The ASF board recommended a change to the constitutional requirement that the league consist of a minimum of 14 teams last June, fuelling speculation that it intended to axe some teams at the end of the season.

But Constantine insisted: "The decision to remove the constitutional barrier enforcing a 14-team league was made because there was a possibility that some of the existing clubs might not be able to conform to our criteria.

"People have put their own twist on that, but the board has never sat down to consider the issue of reducing the number of clubs in the league."

Although the issue will be discussed at the end of the season, the CCSL is likely to retain its current 14-team format.

John Constantine

Constantine said: "It is important to have a strong league, and one way to improve it is to look at the number of participants.

"But this subject has not been systematically examined, and we can't make these decisions overnight. If we are going to adopt a change of format it will only be after lengthy discussion."

Australian Unity Soccer Players Association committee member Peter Gunning indicated the union may oppose the possible reduction of teams in the league when the issue is discussed at the end of the season.

Gunning said: "If four clubs leave the league, 80 players will lose their jobs, or at least have their income restricted.

"We would seek some sort of compensation, and we would need to be given reasonable justification for the change.

"The Players' Union is all for improving the economic viability of the game, but it has yet to be proven that reducing the number of teams to 10 will provide those benefits."

Constantine affirmed that there was a strong chance a Perth team would join the competition next season.

That would see either a 15-team league, or the relegation of one team.

What now for Berti Mariani and Sydney Olympic?

"We decided to leave Berti Mariani alone and let him pick the team"—Harry Michaels

BY STEPHEN COPPING

A TWO HOUR Sydney Olympic board meeting resulted in under-fire coach Berti Mariani holding on to his job, according to club president Harry Michaels

Olympic, whose shock loss to cellar dwellers Heidelberg United saw them drop out of the Top Six, said Michaels were 100 percent behind Mariani.

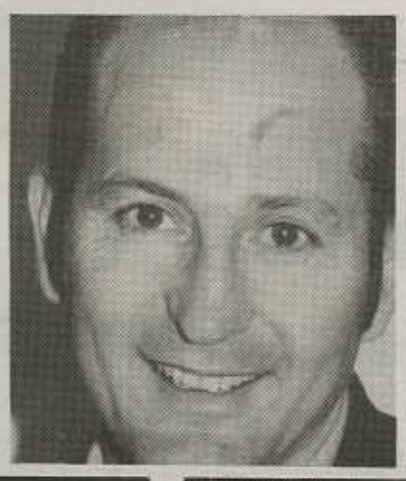
"We decided to leave Berti Mariani alone and let him pick the team," said Michaels, who agreed Mariani's team selections were openly scrutinised by outside influences.Michaels did admit that Mariani had not been given a free reign in certain aspects of picking the team.

"Perhaps the board thought they knew more than he did when it came to naming the Olympic team.

"We are going to stay with the current coach Berti Mariani.

"The supporters must be patient as the club feels we can make the Top Six."

The board meeting, claimed Michaels, came to a unanimous decision regarding Mariani's future, and the coach is said to be determined to get Olympic back on track.



Michaels added that talk of a replacement coach was not on yesterday's agenda and the club wanted to project a professional approach to the supporters by honouring Mariani's contract.

OLYMPIC DREAM TEAM

BY ALFRED HIATT

Australia's preparation for the 1996 Olympic games begins next week when Coca-Cola Olyroo coach, Eddie Thomson, takes a 30-man squad into camp next Monday, 14th February 1994, at the Australian Institute of Sport.

The full squad is:

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Peter Tsekenis, Jose Mendez, Norm Tome.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Kevin Muscat, Michael Valkanis.
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD: Steve Corica, Ufuk Talay.
BRISBANE STRIKERS: Clint Bolton, Sean Cranney.
WEST ADELAIDE: Richie Alagich, Frank Tibaldi, Jimmy Tsekinis.
BRUNSWICK PUMAS: Ross Aloisi.
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Frank Juric, Ante Juric, Mark Viduka, Damian Vojtek, Vinko Buljubasic, Adrian Cervinski.
SYDNEY UNITED: Ante Moric, Ante Milicic, Mark Babic, Tony Popovic.
PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Joe Spiteri, Gabriel Mendez, Brendan Renaud.
WOLLONGONG CITY: Sasho Dimoski.
PERTH ITALIA: Vince Matassa.
ADELAIDE CITY: Goran Lozanovski, Bradley Hassell.

The squad will be in camp until Friday 18th February 1994. The team will play two matches against two of the visiting J-League teams on Wednesday 16th February (Urawa Red Diamonds) and Thursday 17th February (Jubilo Iwata). A further camp will be held in April, where additional players may be considered outside of those selected for this camp.

Thomson said: "Attacking-wise, we are very well equipped. This squad is on a par with the !992 team.

"Steve Corica is the gun of the side, the one we hope will win us games. The captaincy will come down to a choice between Corica, Tony Popovic, and Kevin Muscat."

Thomson added: "The likes of Corica and Mark Viduka will probably be heading overseas, but we'll have to face that problem when it comes."

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

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Female soccer fans attending the Marconi-Fairfield CCSL match against West Adelaide on Saturday night are in for a special Valentines Day treat. The famous European Cosmetic Company Trussardi, on conjunction with Marconi, are presenting the first 300 ladies through the gate with a sample bottle of Trussardi perfume as a gift for Valentines Day.

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BLANCO SIGNS

Assistant Socceroo coach Raul Blanco signed a contract to stay on as West Adelaide coach for a further two years.

West Adelaide president Harry Zacharoyannis said the restructuring that had taken place since Blanco came to the club in 1992 was not complete.

He said the Argentine-born coach's presence was vital for the club's resurgence and the board was unanimous in its decision to extend Blanco's contract.

In his first season as coach, Blanco lifted the Sharks from 13th to fifth on the ladder, and last year the team also made the finals due mainly to smart recruiting.

The talented coach was noted for bringing a Latin flair to the West Adelaide game which helped the side attract a strong following in Adelaide.

Blanco caused controversy in October last year when he resigned after a falling-out with the management over the changes he wanted to make.

He was talked into staying on as coach, but has had a hard year with the loss of several key players including potent goalscorer Jose Iriate.

Foley's parting shots

Jim Foley

BY RICHARD FRENCH

The problems faced by axed Newcastle Breakers' coach, Jim Foley, included a players' power struggle which he claimed resulted in him getting the sack.

Commenting on the dissent within the team that finally brought his downfall, Foley said: "I did not spend time playing detective trying to find out who was doing what, there was just an uncomfortable feeling which I should not have ignored.

"With the benefit of hindsight it all becomes a lot clearer that there was a deliberate plan by some of the players and officials to destabilise my position.

"We started the season well and people were talking about the Top Six, but I would remind them that I was the first to say that we shouldn't be looking too far ahead.

"I still believe we had the ability to do better, and so do the players. People should not forget how damaging player-power can be."

These were the parting shots Foley fired at those involved in the "power struggle":

- Darren Stewart "did nothing to help the club when he came back and couldn't play...."
- Nick Meredith "put both boots in as a parting gesture. I do not question his ability as a footballer, but his discipline on the park left a lot to be desired...."
- Lawrie McKinna "was not involved with the players' coup, and after Stewart claimed to be speaking on his behalf, he rang me to say he knew nothing about that."
- Warren Spink "wanted to re-negotiate his contract, but the board had too many other problems and could not afford to do that."
- Graham Jennings. "I cannot believe he accepted the position under the circumstances. I played with him when he was just starting at Adamstown as a 16-year-old, and I never thought he would do this."

"Getting rid of me will not solve their problems on or off the field. Eliminating the coach was the lesser of two evils and the cancer is still there," Foley said.

Darren Stewart

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Zabica to quit for Perth

Keeping his options open: Socceroo goalkeeper Robert Zabica may return to Perth at the end of the season.

BY PETER KRUPKA

Socceroo goalkeeper Robert Zabica may leave Adelaide City at the end of the CCSL season and return home to Perth.

Zabica came to Adelaide seven years ago in pursuit of a National League career and has been one of City's most consistent performers.

But he said the challenge of playing in the National League had lost its spark and, although his mind was not made up, he was thinking of leaving Adelaide.

"The National League's boring me at the moment," Zabica said.

"My wife and all our family come from Perth and I've played seven seasons in Adelaide, so it may be time to move on," he added.

Zabica, who joined City from Perth side Stirling Macedonia, said he had contemplated joining the Perth side that planned to play in the Singapore League this March.

"I might play in the Singapore League they are getting into over there, but there are plenty of options," he said.

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WHO IS THIS PLAYER?

- WEEK 8 -

Germany ejects overseas players.....for now

German World

Germany have got their sights set on a record-breaking fourth World Cup triumph.

The Germans, along with Italy and Brazil, have ...

One of Australia's brightest young talents, Mark Viduka, has been approached by several European clubs interested in his services.

The 18-year-old Melbourne Knights striker, tipped as Australia's first million dollar export, said he had so far resisted five offers.

"I can't tell you who they are from but they've been European clubs," Viduka said.

Poised to become the youngest winner of the Coca-Cola Soccer League's goalscoring award, there had been ... he starred in a ... tournament late ...

...ained an Australian ... to the finals of an ... tournament in ... was also leading ... players from Brazil, Costa Rica, ..., Colombia and ...

He said agents had approached him in Australia after initial enquiries were made in Venezuela.

"So far there hasn't been any mention of figures, they've just been offers," he said.

Although tempted by Europe, Viduka wants to remain in Australia at least until next year's World Youth Soccer Championship in Nigeria.

The Young Socceroos made the semi-finals of the tournament under skipper Kevin Muscat in Australia early last year.

Melbourne Knights president Angie Cimera has described Viduka as a freak, adding: "In my opinion he will be the first million dollar player to be sold out of Australia".

Cimera said he would be naive to think that Viduka would want to stay with Melbourne after the WYC in March 1995.

"I wouldn't be able to keep him after that, and quite frankly I wouldn't want to do that in the best interests of the lad," he said.

Viduka's transfer could provide a financial windfall for his club in much the same way Sydney Olympic benefitted from Ned Zelic.

Olympic sold the star Socceroo to German club Borussia Dortmund for $650,000 in an arrangement which will see it get a 15 per cent cut on any subsequent transfer.

It was rumoured Italian club Torino is prepared to pay Zelic $5.5 million — a figure which would earn Olympic $A750,000.

However, according to sources in Italy, Torino are in financial turmoil and the transfer has also been denied by Zelic.

Viduka is the CCSL's leading scorer, and with a bustling 90kg frame, and his displays of on-field theatrics, has also developed a cult status in Melbourne.

Despite his rise to prominence this season, Viduka didn't think he was playing anywhere near his best and has been only happy with his form over the past month.

"I've got a lot more confidence," he said.

"Sometimes the older players in the team would yell at me when I stuffed things up and I didn't handle it too well.

"These days I'm taking it on the chin."

Singapore 'keeper looking for a NSW State side

BY STEPHEN COPPING

Stefan Ng is a Singapore goalkeeper who is on the look-out for an Australian club for the coming NSW Super League season.

The six foot 'keeper, who has represented the Singapore national side as a reserve, was the first choice for the Singapore Olympic team and has played regularly for the national B team.

Ng currently plays for Tyrwhitt Caltex F.C, who were coached by Mike Urukalo.

"Stefan is desperate to play in Australia," said Urukalo.

"The club are prepared to loan him for nothing and I would recommend him to any State League side.

"He was the most outstanding 'keeper in the Singapore League last season, but he wants to learn more about the game by playing in Australia."

Ng, by playing in Australia, could be the first of many players to reverse the player trend operating in Australia. Over the years, many Australian players have joined the exodus to Asia, however, if Ng does join a club in Australia he could start an influx of top Asian players to Australia.

Looking for a game: Stefan Ng.

Video evidence questioned by AUSPA and South Melbourne

BY JUSTIN BRASIER

A players' union official has called into question the Coca-Cola Soccer League's use of video evidence.

The Australian Unity Soccer Players Association executive officer Brendan Schwab has demanded a fairer video system that doesn't disadvantage top clubs.

South Melbourne's Kevin Muscat was suspended for two games by a tribunal last Thursday night, after being cited, on the basis of video evidence, for an alleged stomping offence in the match between South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights in December.

It is the first time this season that the CCSL has made a charge on video evidence, the incident being caught by SBS cameras.

At present, the CCSL only investigates incidents on video when they are brought to its attention after being missed by the referees.

Schwab said the system discriminates against the top clubs who are more likely to figure in televised matches.

The Blues claim that because they feature most in Match of the Days, there is more chance of their players being caught on video.

"We don't want guys endangering fellow professionals in any way, but the procedure in judging a player has to be looked at across the board," Schwab said.

"We can't have a system where the successful and more talented clubs are discriminated against."

Muscat was charged with bringing the game into disrepute, after an incident with Melbourne Knights skipper Joe Biskic was caught on video.

The CCSL says all games are captured on film, however, the less important matches are usually recorded by one wide-range camera.

SBS uses six cameras for its feature games.

The alleged incident between Muscat and Biskic was captured by a SBS ground level camera, and was replayed several times.

South Melbourne raised the issue of the inconsistency of video charges at the tribunal, where Muscat was represented by club chairman, and prominent solicitor, Peter Mitrakas.

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THE OFFSIDE WITH DARREN ALLY

Singapore surprise

What is in store for Perth and Darwin Cubs?

BY SARAH CLARRY

Discussions commenced two years ago in Indonesia relating to the development of a South-East Asian league, led to the decision to include one Perth-based and one Darwin-based team in the new-look Singapore National Soccer League.

And while Perth coach Gary Marocchi acknowledges that it isn't the ideal option, he says that it will be beneficial and will fill the void that exists for players currently stagnating in the Australian system.

Western Australia has, in recent times, produced three players in the 1993 World Youth Cup national squad, and another two in the Joeys team.

Marocchi said that for the players of Perth Italia, who have won the local competition for the past five years running, and some others, there is no opportunity to progress.

"These players deserve the chance to play in the National League, but they [the Australian Soccer Federation] gave us this story about airfares being too expensive," Marocchi said.

Criticism: Michael Urukalo

"However, I believe the motivations are political."

Marocchi went on to say that the Western Australians had reason to believe that on current indications they would never be represented in the CCSL.

"There's been a lot of controversy in recent weeks about the CCSL. They are supposed to be doing a job for the whole of the country, not just the eastern states," he said. "The commissioners should be acting in the best interests of the game."

So instead, good players from Western Australia in recent years have found their best choice to be a career in the Malaysian League, or a similar Asian league, where a player of an average standard can reportedly earn between $40,000 and $60,000 a year.

While initially Australian players going into the Singapore League with the new team can expect to earn at least twice what a side like Perth Italia are paying, the opportunity exists for further advancement if the new league format takes off as expected.

Already, Marocchi says, several Malaysian clubs have had feelers out assessing the talent of local Perth players.

Michael Urukalo, Australia's first coach to take up a position in Asia, made some disparaging comments recently about the two teams' decision to join the Singapore League, claiming the standard isn't good enough and that the crowds are small (3,200 being the largest last season).

"He's coaching in that league so he's only downgrading himself," Marocchi retorted. "With a couple more players we'd be up to CCSL standard."

Marocchi said that the improved crowd figures alone are a big incentive.

"People aren't watching local games. If we get a three to four thousand crowd in this league it will be two to two and a half thousand better than the local competition," he said.

Currently, an agreement exists that Perth, and the Darwin Cubs, Northern Territory's representative, will enter the league for a period of three years.

The Perth team has yet to announce its name or sponsors, but will do so at a launch later this month.

The team consists of ten players from the hugely successful Perth Italia side, including World Youth Championship stars Mark Wingell and Vince Matassa.

Another already familiar name in the squad is 18-year-old Dale Wingell, Mark's younger brother.

The rest, says Marocchi, will be made up of local talent, and they are looking to purchase two or three National League players at the completion of their club commitments.

Marocchi says their preparation is a little behind at this stage, due to problems experienced with local clubs releasing their players for training.

In addition, Mark Wingell underwent an operation for shin splints in November last year, and is still not fully fit.

However, they have two scheduled matches against Malaysian side Selangor later this month, and Marocchi hopes that by the time the season kicks off on March 26, they will have caught up to Darwin, who in contrast have had a good preparation.

Darwin will play also play friendly matches, theirs being against West Adelaide, to experience some real competition before the league begins.

Despite their Australian connections, Marocchi said that Darwin and Perth wouldn't be helping each other out too much.

It is planned that visiting teams will play their two Australian away games on the same trip.

The new Singapore League came about because Singapore didn't want to join the Malaysian league at this stage. But eventually they hope to link up with the Malaysian pro-league, possibly along with teams from Indonesia and Bangkok, forming a formidably strong league between them.

And if these plans come to fruition, ultimately it may emerge that Perth and Darwin have made a very astute move indeed.

Stretching the boundaries: Young Socceroo Mark Wingell, seen here with Anthony Carbone, will play for Perth in the Singapore League.

Urukalo's warning

BY STEPHEN COPPING

High profile Asian-based coach Michael Urukalo hit back at Perth coach Gary Marocchi.

Urukalo was provoked into a war of words when told that Marocchi had blasted him for criticising Perth and Darwin sides playing in the coming Singapore League (set to start on March 26).

"I wasn't having a go at Marocchi when I talked about the lack of quality in the Singapore League," said Urukalo, who has quit Singapore side Tyrwhitt Caltex F.C after taking the team to second place in the league last season.

"The Singapore League promised so much last season, but it just didn't deliver.

"The emphasis is on the Singapore semi-pro side which plays in the Malaysian League.

"The remainder of players in the Singapore League, to be honest, are a class below State League level.

"Darwin or Perth should win the league hands down."

Urukalo spent last weekend in Asia negotiating with a Malaysian club about the possibility of coaching the side, however, a European post is still on the cards, although he has ruled out a return to the Singapore League.

"When I joined Tyrwhitt Caltex it was on the understanding that we were going to rival the Malaysian League in popularity and quality.

"But the Football Association of Singapore made sure that didn't happen.

"Last season the Singapore League was meant to start in January, but for one reason or another the competition only got underway in July, seven months later, and the sponsors of the clubs were up in arms.

"In July the Malaysian League was underway, which meant we were in direct conflict with an established and popular league."

Urukalo learnt last week that Tyrwhitt's major sponsor Caltex have pulled out after only one season in the Singapore League.

Caltex sponsored the club to the tune of $500,000, and they were even able to afford the services of Abbas Saad on loan.

"If Caltex are no longer sponsoring Tyrwhitt, what does that tell you about the league?" said Urukalo.

"To be fair to the Australian clubs Darwin and Perth, Marocchi is probably right that they haven't got much choice if they want to play higher quality football, but the Singapore League has no future.

"It is very surprising to hear that Perth have signed to play in Singapore for three years."

Heading for Singapore: Perth star Vince Matassa

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

COMPILED BY STEPHEN COPPING

You can't put a salary cap on players that are hardly earning anything. It is a gimmick - controversial SBS panellist Tom Anderson ridicules the salary cap proposal.

The salary caps are not workable - SBS panellist Johnny Warren on what he thinks of the ASF's latest recommendation.

At the moment half the clubs in the national competition are in financial trouble, with others heading that way - ASF chief executive Ian Holmes hopes to play his part in reducing the clubs' financial woes by introducing the salary cap.

Does anyone at the ASF have any ideas of their own? - Sydney United coach Manfred Schaefer on the ASF's proposal to implement a players' salary cap.

You can't pick and choose (players) if you are going to use trial by video - Francis Awaritefe on the trial by video issue, which is already proving unpopular with the clubs and players.

The league should be reduced, there are not enough good players around - Anderson on the ASF's decision not to go ahead with a reduced league next season.

My personal opinion remains that there needs to be less teams in the competition. But this is the right decision at the right time - president of the ASF Neville Wran on the decision not to go ahead with the proposed reduction of the number of clubs in the National League.

Newcastle BHP Beakers need to be in the National League. Newcastle is the sixth biggest city in Australia - Breakers president Con Mitsios.

I believe I have been made a scapegoat - sacked Breakers coach Jim Foley on getting the sack.

There should be no promotion for three or four years - Parramatta Eagles president Sam Vella argues that the CCSL should guarantee the current clubs a place in the league for another four seasons.

I won't know how to handle both jobs until I play - new Breakers caretaker coach Graham Jennings on his dual role of coach and player.

To get to Italy I have to perform in midfield - Socceroo and Borussia Dortmund star Ned Zelic on his future.

Next time you shout I'm really going to lose it - beleaguered Diego Maradona at his home after the shooting of journalists last week.

This disgusting incident has set the club's image back 10 years - Leeds United chairman Leslie Silver wants the fans who chanted "There's only one Don Revie" during a minute's silence never to return to Elland Road.

The only way Maradona is going to be in the World Cup is by firing an airgun at the World Cup circus - Anderson on Maradona's World Cup hopes following his latest escapades.

Go out wide and what have you - the words of former England manager Graham Taylor to Nigel Clough just before he was going on as a substitute against Norway. Taylor's tactical ineptitude has been exposed in a English Channel Four Cutting Edge documentary recently shown in England.

Anyone who thinks these things don't happen is living in cloud cuckoo land - Graham Taylor on his constant use of the F word in the documentary.

At 3.30 it was goodnight Vienna - Leeds United boss Howard Wilkinson's thoughts on his side going down 2-0 to Oxford after 30 minutes. Leeds clawed their way back to a 2-2 draw.

Letters to the Editor

Tell us what you think about soccer's big issues. Letters should ideally be a maximum of 200 words, and may be edited.

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
P.O. BOX 155
Marrickville,
NSW 2204

ASF: OUT TO SHOOTOUT

I have just read in a national newspaper a suggestion attributed to Ian Holmes that there should be a penalty shootout to decide all drawn matches.

This at a time when FIFA are supposedly trying to find an alternative to the "unsatisfactory" penalty shootout presently in force!

Sure Japan and USA are employing this gimmick to achieve a result.

I very much doubt that penaltys would add 100 extra specators to a game here in Australia.

What we need is better marketing. Look at what professional marketing has done for rugby league — surely the most minor of minority sports worldwide.

So come on ASF - it's better marketing ideas that are needed, not gimmicks which alter the rules of the game.

Roy Lowe
Georgetown

TWO CLUBS SHOULD GO

I agree totally with the views expressed by one of your readers in your letters' section (18.1.94). For a long time, I have held the view that there are currently too many clubs in Sydney.

However, it was disappointing to read the ASF isn't going to drop any clubs.

At least one, or ideally two, Sydney clubs should have been dropped from a revamped CCSL. If one is to be realistic, there is no way that either Marconi-Fairfield or Sydney Olympic could go. Both Sydney United and Parramatta Eagles would have difficulty convincing any supporter outside of their own club that they should remain in the CCSL.

As I support Australian soccer in general, and not any particular club, I hope this letter can be viewed as constructive, and not as an unjustified attack on Sydney United and Parramatta Eagles.

CCSL Supporter
Liverpool

STRIKE SQUAD

The re-emergence of a Brisbane side in the CCSL would have surprised most southern critics predicting another wooden spoon.

After coming through a quiet revolution, the Strikers are well on the march. It has been translated not only through results on the park, but also by the support of the Brisbane public, notably the 'Strike Squad' supporters, who are every bit as passionate and committed to their team as their southern counterparts.

The strike squad are enthusiastic Aussies who have made Perry Park come alive. With our very own sponsor, the "Strike Squad" is sure to grow in numbers, as we are orientated towards a family atmosphere, and believe many good times lie ahead for the Strikers.

Stewart Holmes
Brisbane

NEW HORIZONS?

It seems evident that the CCSL is set to expand its horizons into new areas such as Perth, Canberra, Tasmania and possibly some other areas over the next few seasons.

As the ASF puts down plans to regionalise the league in order to make the CCSL more representative, one of their biggest stumbling blocks is always going to be the cost of travel for clubs going to and from different cities every second week.

A thought that I have in order to help reduce the cost of travel could be to semi-split the league into two divisions. For example, if it were a 16-team league, you could have a North-Eastern Division totalling eight teams from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Darwin, Newcastle, Sydney team A, Sydney team B, Wollongong and Canberra. A South-Western Division would consist of the remaining eight clubs such as South Melbourne, Melbourne Knights, Morwell Falcons, Adelaide City, West Adelaide, Tasmania, Geelong and Perth.

Each team would play every other team from its own division twice on a home and away basis, and then play each team from the other division just once, bringing the total number of CCSL matches to 22 rounds. This means that, for example when the Wollongong Wolves are playing their round of matches against teams from the South-Western division, they would only have to travel to Melbourne once, Adelaide once, either Morwell or Geelong and either Perth or Tasmania. Every second week the other Melbourne and Adelaide clubs, Geelong or Morwell and Tasmania or Perth would travel to Wollongong.

This system is not a new concept, as it is used mainly in the United States NFL and Basketball competitions. It also allows the competition to remain as one because at some stage, all clubs get the opportunity to play against each and every club in the league.

Although the CCSL would be reduced from 26 to 22 rounds, it would mean that they wouldn't have to play midweek matches and could also give the players of the CCSL a two-week break over Christmas and the New Years period.

Gary Cerulli
Oatlands

FEMALE FAN

I am a great fan of soccer and I enjoy reading your publication every week.

Brian Salmons (letters, ABSW 11.1.94), raises the question: "How can you possibly support two teams in the league?"

Who said it's against the law to support two teams? I support four teams which allows me to see more matches, and great ones at that.

Another thing I wish to comment on is how many males find it strange when a female is a strong supporter of soccer. I am a female and whenever I involve myself in conversations about soccer, many males have the attitude of 'what would she know, she's a girl.'

I find that very offensive and I think males should start realising that soccer isn't just a man's game. Many males also think that females only go to soccer matches to pick-up or to watch the good-looking males, but let met tell you, they are wrong.

Female Supporter
J.J. Sydney

YANKEES GO HOME

I would like to comment on the statements made by H.P. Hayck, who wrote that if we bring in soccer players from overseas, we would be guaranteed "sold out" stadiums.

I disagree with this. The only reson basketball is growing so quickly in Australia, is because basketball is the number one sport in the USA. Americans are basketball fanatics, and basically, whatever Americans do, or like, is inevitably liked here, too.

To put it simply, Australians pander to Americans.

For example, if soccer was to become as popular in the USA as it is in Argentina, England and Italy, then you would see how far soccer in Australia could go. Crowds would at least double. It's happened for basketball, baseball and, hopefully, it will for soccer!

We simply cannot expect soccer to get more coverage in the media if crowds have dropped by at least 5 per cent since last season!

Soccer in Australia has always been considered the poor relative to Aussie Rules.

name withheld
at writer's request

AUSTRALIA IN BRIEF...

BY STEPHEN COPPING

◆There is no simple answer to the question of whether the 14-team Coca Cola Soccer League should be reduced or not. The speculation has, over the last few months, aroused wild accusations by people in favour of the reduction and those vehemently wanting to keep the status quo. The Australian Soccer Federation has denied a backdown on the issue, but if the likes of Neville Wran, as president, support the reduction of clubs in the National League, then that indicates there is no clear vision within the ASF - that, alone, is not good for the game.

◆Last week I wrote about the appalling lack of coverage the South Korean side Il Haw had received. We now hear that six "J"League sides will be in Australia over the next two weeks. At the same time, the Socceroos are searching high and low for sides to play against. Why didn't the ASF organise a mini-tournament at the Sydney Football Stadium starring these "J" League sides and the home-based Socceroos? As a way of promoting the National League, the likes of Marconi-Fairfield could have played as a part of a double header.

◆The actual clubs which are set to face the six "J" League teams range from an ACT State team, Sydney Olympic, Leichhardt Tigers, Blacktown City, Adelaide City, and a Victorian select side. It is astonishing that these clubs have offered no press releases and seem, apart from Marconi and Adelaide, intent on keeping the fixtures as uiet as possible. Unbelievable!

◆Soccer clubs which go too far in 'revving up' their players may be ordered to pay exemplary damages, of well over $100,000, when player violence occurs, warns a senior litigator. This follows a payout against a Rugby League footballer, who deliberately struck a high profile player and broke his jaw during a game. This decision could have serious repercussions for soccer. If a club, for instance, is found guilty of provoking one of their players to physically restrict an opposition player, then the club, and not just the player himself, could be sued for damages.

◆News that FIFA, soccer's governing body, will be awarding three points for a win during the World Cup campaign could end the penalty shootout farce which marred the 1990 World Cup. Three points for a victory could spoil the negative tactics of coaches who deliberately go out and play for a draw. Attacking sides like Brazil and Colombia could reap the benefits of the changes.

◆The Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup 1994 draw and booklet have just been released. The Bill Turner Cup is in its 16th year. 1994 will see 572 entries, 131 of those deriving from Queensland. The competition, as well as the clubs the players represent, is a breeding ground for tomorrow's soccer players. It is interesting to hear that last season's outstanding player, Josip Simunic, is doing very well at the Australian Institute of Sport. Australian and British Soccer Weekly will be covering all the results of the 1994 Bill Turner Cup.

◆The NSW Central Western League's inaugural meeting was held last Friday. The seven clubs participating, Bathurst '75, Cowra Wildcats, Dubbo United Eagles, Lithgow Workmens, Orange Waratah, Parkes United and Young Rebels, kick off the new league in early April.

◆The shootout proposal which the ASF's chief executive Ian Holmes put forward a couple of weeks ago is a step in the wrong direction. Despite the success of the J-League, the penalty shootout to decide matches has not been the most succesful, or exciting, way to determine results. The 1990 World Cup finals proved that point.

Hoodoo no more as Sharks sink City

ROUND 19

WEST ADELAIDE 2

ADELAIDE CITY 0

By Tom McKain

at Hindmarsh Stadium

West Adelaide broke the hoodoo which Adelaide City had held over them for eight games with a spectacular victory, which gave them new hope to make the play-offs.

It was especially a triumph for coach Raul Blanco, who on Friday signed as supremo for two more years.

The defeat, and a win for Morwell, saw City drop a place, and coach Zoran Matic must now be worried about the lack of scoring touch from key strikers Carl Veart and Damien Mori.

On the other hand, Blanco was delighted with his veteran front runner Greg Brown, who broke the deadlock in the 51st minute when he hit a rocket on the turn, after a shot from Raymond Blair had been blocked.

The game was far from one-sided and had been delayed for 12 minutes, as fans overworked the turnstiles to produce a huge10,350-strong crowd.

The clinching goal came again from Brown in the 92nd minute, when referee Richard Lorenc, playing injury time, awarded a free kick for Milan Ivanovic's foul on substitute Jimmy Tsekinis.

Brown and Blair foxed the City defence by rehearsing the free kick, then suddenly Brown ran forward and curled the ball home from 20 metres.

The Zebras had to play minus Socceroo goalkeeper Robert Zabica for the second week in succession, but his deputy Jason Petkovic could not be blamed for either of the goals.

The Sharks' custodian Peter Blazincic had also been under a cloud with a dislocated shoulder, but fronted up and was beaten only once. In the 86th minute Bradley Hassell broke from his full back position, and shot what looked like a certain goal, only for Robbie Hooker to clear off the line.

Goran Lozanovski

At the other end of the field there was a similar situation when Tony Vidmar stopped the ball crossing the Zebras' line, from a shot by Brown in the 57th minute.

The result has given West a huge boost, as although they still have to play away games their last two encounters are at home, and the triumph over City has not only broken the jinx cast by that club, but also a shocking hoodoo which has hung over them on their home ground.

As far as City are concerned, Matic must be worried about the form shown by Veart and Steve Maxwell as he has been relying on midfielder Joe Mullen to carry the scoring load with eight goals so far this season.

But he could lose him as the tough midfielder is facing a possible appendicitis operation, which was only delayed last week thanks to medication.

Despite the bookings accumulated by West Adelaide, five in all, the game was played in a friendly spirit thanks to referee Richard Lorenc, who flashed his card inside the first 23 minutes and curbed any possible flare-ups.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Vatsilas, Haniotis, Kokkinoplitis, Hooker, Slifkas, Cardozo, Lazaridis, Blair, Brown, Brazzale (Tsekinis 89).

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Maxwell, Lozanovski, Melta, Mullen (Talladira 68), Hassell.

SCORERS: Brown 51m, 92m for West Adelaide.

YELLOW CARDS: Vatsilas 8m, Kokkinoplitis 10m, Cardozo 7m, Blair 90m, Brown 23m for West Adelaide. Vidmar 9m for Adelaide City.

REFEREE: R Lorenc.

CROWD: 10,350.

POY: Brown 3, Slifkas 2, Ivanovic 1.

On the ball: Stan Lazaridis shone in West Adelaide's important victory.

PARRAMATTA CITY SOCCER CLUB

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633-5797 Paul (seniors)

868-4972 Stan

CCSL LINE-UPS LEADING SCORERS & TABLE

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0
PARA EAGLES 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Anastasiadis, Hasler, Durakovic, Polak, Wade, Tsolakis, Tasios (Panopoulos 75), Trimboli, Boutsianis (Stubbins 84), Awaritefe, Valkanis.
PARRAMATTA: P. Gunning, Ciantar, Gwynne, Gomez (G. Gunning 23), Koch, Orlic, Moffitt, Naumovski, Soper, Ndongo Keller, Renaud.
SCORERS: Nil.
YELLOW CARDS: Hasler 33m for South Melbourne and Naumovski 64m for Parramatta.
REFEREE: Rob Davies.
CROWD: 3000.
POY POINTS: 3 — Koch (P), 2 — Valkanis (SM), 1 — Orlic (P).

WOLLONGONG CITY 1
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 1

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Forshaw, O'Shea, Lloyd, McLaren, Horsley, Bonetig (Dimoski 82), Ricoy, Coveny, Ackers (Krishna 88), Ollerenshaw.
MARCONI: Schwarzer, Jolevski, De Marigny, Bingley, Van Egmond, Corica, Harper, Meredith (Angelucci 72), Talay, Iocca, McCulloch (Casserley 63),
YELLOW CARDS: Ackers (W) 36min. Harper (M) 79min.
REFEREE: Gerry Connelly.
POY POINTS: Bonetig (W) 3, Horsley (W) 2, Bingley (M) 1.

BRUNSWICK PUMAS 0
MORWELL FALCONS 1

BRUNSWICK: Kourtis, Kuzmanovic, Della Rocca, Cahut (Tricarico 63), McGeachey, Aloisi, Zinni, Emmanuele, Karkaletsis, Tombalato (Ferla 23), Minichiello.
MORWELL: Mautone, Canosa, Douglas, Parton, Sevin, Waddell, Markovski (Stergiopoulos 86), Armstrong, Trpcevski (Cassar 62), Djordjevic, Hannah.
SCORERS: Armstrong 11m for Morwell.
YELLOW CARDS: Della Rocca 12m, Kuzmanovic 79m for Brunswick. Douglas 59m, Parton 59m for Morwell.
REFEREE: C Naumcevski.
CROWD: 1500.
POY POINTS: 3 — Karkaletsis, 2 — Douglas, 1 — Hannah.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
HEIDELBERG UTD 2

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Sorras, Spyridakos, Augerinos, Maloney, Tsekenis, Bernal, Milosevic, Kelic, Poimer (Caleta 62).
HEIDELBERG UTD: Chatzitrifonas, Bratten, Watson, Hodgson, Selemidis, Scott, Iossifidis, MacNicol, Georgiadis, Tiktikakis (Vlahos 66), Michalakopoulos.
SCORERS: Kelic 8m for Sydney Olympic. Scott 55m for Heidelberg.
YELLOW CARDS: Bratten 35m, MacNicol 38m for Heidelberg.
REFEREE: C Smyth.
CROWD: 3,300.
POY POINTS: 3 — Watson, 2 — Michalakopoulos, 1 — Bernal.

SYDNEY UNITED 1
NEWCASTLE BHP 0

SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac, Stanton, Popovic, Vrkic, Petkovic (Jermen 72), Krslovic, Hristodoulou, Gibson, Zdrlic, Milicic (Okon 66), Lamond.
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Gosling, Roberts, Stewart, Meier, Jones (McKinna 86), Jennings, Naumov, MacQuarrie (Middleby 89), Owens, Spink, Brown.
SCORERS: Gibson 88m for United.
YELLOW CARDS: Stewart 39m, Jennings 39m, MacQuarrie 39m for Newcastle.
REFEREE: D Crawford.
POY POINTS: 3 — Popovic, 2 — Stanton, 1 — Meier.

WEST ADELAIDE 2
ADELAIDE CITY 0

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Vatsilas, Haniotis, Kokkinoplitis, Hooker, Slifkas, Cardozo, Lazaridis, Blair, Brown, Brazzale (Tsekinis 89).
ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Maxwell, Lozanovski, Melta, Mullen (Talladira 68), Hassell.
SCORERS: Brown 51m, 92m for West Adelaide.
YELLOW CARDS: Vatsilas 8m, Kokkinoplitis 10m, Cardozo 7m, Blair 90m, Brown 23m for West Adelaide. Vidmar 9m for Adelaide City.
REFEREE: R Lorenc.
CROWD: 10,350.
POY POINTS: 3 — Brown, 2 — Slifkas, 1 — Ivanovic.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb Knights	19	13	3	3	49	15	42
Sth Melbourne	19	11	5	3	32	11	38
Sydney United	19	11	3	5	25	23	36
Marconi	19	9	6	4	36	21	33
Brisbane	19	7	6	6	22	19	27
Morwell	19	7	6	6	17	18	27
Syd Olympic	19	7	6	6	33	35	27
Adelaide City	19	6	7	6	30	21	25
Parra Eagles	19	6	7	6	18	18	25
West Adelaide	19	7	3	9	26	24	24
Newcastle BHP	19	4	5	10	25	38	17
Wollongong	19	3	7	9	17	26	16
Melb BUSC	19	3	4	12	14	42	13
Heidelberg Utd	19	3	4	12	14	47	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Mark Viduka	(Melbourne Knights)	15
Warren Spink	(Newcastle BHP)	12
Ivan Kelic	(Sydney Olympic)	11
Joe Mullen	(Adelaide City)	8
Francis Awaritefe	(Sth Melbourne)	7
Greg Brown	(West Adelaide)	7
Rodney Brown	(Newcastle BHP)	7
Con Boutsianis	(Sth Melbourne)	7
Adam Cervinski	(Sth Melbourne)	7
Andrew Harper	(Marconi Fairfield)	7
Andrew Marth	(Melbourne Knights)	7
Manis Lamond	(Sydney United)	6
John Markovski	(Morwell Falcons)	6
Scott Ollerenshaw	(Wollongong)	6
Oliver Pondeljak	(Melb Knights)	6
Marshall Soper	(Parramatta)	6

Gibson sours Jennings' start

ROUND 19
SYDNEY UNITED 1
NEWCASTLE 0
By Sarah Clarry
at Sydney Croatian S.C.

Newcastle's first game under new caretaker coach, Graham Jennings, ended in defeat to Sydney United, but for former Socceroo Jennings it was a learning experience.

Not for the first time this season, United grabbed a late winner, but Jennings said that apart from that brief lapse in concentration, he was pleased with the way his team performed.

Being a player-coach definitely has its difficulties, as he will testify.

"It's hard. I now know just how hard it is," Jennings said after the game.

"I should have made the substitutions earlier, as the legs were getting a bit tired."

He was referring to Lawrie McKinna and Robbie Middleby, who both came on in the final five minutes.

It was Middleby's debut in the first team, but he wasn't given much of an opportunity to show off his skills.

While most would agree that it would have been a good result for Newcastle to get the draw, Jennings is adamant that they came to Sydney to win.

"We played three up front, and tried to push forward. We almost got the goal, then they took it down the other end and scored against us."

The match was a dour struggle, a Tony Krslovic shot that rebounded off the bar was the most eventful occurrence of the first half.

Robert Stanton robbed Newcastle of almost certain victory late in the match, when he cleared a Neil Owens shot off the line from a corner.

But United missed an equally good chance when Manis Lamond got away unmarked, and it was only due to some clever work by Newcastle goalkeeper Clint Gosling that he failed on his final shot.

But Gibson's goal with two minutes remaining sealed Newcastle's fate.

No doubt the recent turmoil at the Breakers' club has had its effect on team morale.

"It's taken its toll," Jennings admits. "But I thought we built on each training session last week, and there's still seven matches to go."

Of his own position now, he says: "It's a caretaker position and a lot depends on the finances of the club".

Whatever happens, Newcastle can take heart from what was a gutsy performance in light of their recent problems and the quality of the opposition.

SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac, Stanton, Popovic, Vrkic, Petkovic (Jermen 72), Krslovic, Hristodoulou, Gibson, Zdrlic, Milicic (Okon 66), Lamond.
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Gosling, Roberts, Stewart, Meier, Jones (McKinna 86), Jennings, Naumov, MacQuarrie (Middleby 89), Owens, Spink, Brown.
SCORERS: Gibson 88m for United.
YELLOW CARDS: Stewart 39m, Jennings 39m, MacQuarrie 39m for Newcastle.
REFEREE: D Crawford.
POY: Popovic 3, Stanton 2, Meier 1.

Falcons finals bound

ROUND 19
BRUNSWICK PUMAS 0
MORWELL FALCONS 1
By Greg Blake
at Melb Croatia S.C.

Morwell's finals drive was kept alive as the Falcons held out for victory against Brunswick Pumas.

Morwell was forced to hold out against fast-finishing Brunswick in a last-man-standing affair in humid conditions.

The only goal of the game was scored 11 minutes in as Lachlan Armstrong continued his goal-scoring splurge, picking up the crumbs from a Steve Mautone save, and sliding his shot over the line to cap an impressive start by the visitors.

Morwell held sway in the opening half, but was forced onto the back foot as the Pumas, led by tenacious George Karkaletsis, revived after the interval

With Brunswick pushing into attack mode, the Falcons exchanged second half chances punch-for-punch in a climactic finish to a crucial game.

Karkaletsis admitted that his side was fired by a half-time address by coach Ken Murphy.

"He (Murphy) had a hard word with us at half-time, saying he wanted more effort and determination," said the lively Pumas midfielder.

"I think we deserved an equaliser, but that's the way it goes."

Morwell veteran George Hannah conceded that his side was surprised by the ferocity of the Brunswick comeback.

"Credit to them, as they made us work really hard," said Hannah. "But it was important that we got the three points, and we could have clinched it with a couple of breakaways late in the game."

Hannah had the final word on Morwell's tough victory, saying: "It's definitely the finals for Morwell this year."

Morwell, with John Waddell playing his way back into form in the middle, deserved its half-time lead.

Two stirring saves from goalkeeper Jimmy Kourtis - both from Armstrong - and a Ross Aloisi miss over the crossbar cost Morwell the chance of a more emphatic break at the interval.

Despite starting the second half in equally as impressive fashion, the Falcons were eventually hauled in by the Karkaletsis-inspired Pumas.

Running himself into the ground, Karkaletsis carved out two tremendous opportunities for the Pumas, the first when he stepped around his marker and chipped over the crossbar, and the second in the 77th minute, as his deft cross found Andrew Zinni far post, Zinni knocking his shot across the goal face and off the upright.

In a blow-for-blow final 10 minutes Brunswick moved forward en masse, and was nearly punished on three occasions as Armstrong, John Markovski and substitute Marcus Stergiopoulos all missed golden breakaway opportunities.

BRUNSWICK: Kourtis, Kuzmanovic, Della Rocca, Cahut (Tricarico 63), McGeachey, Aloisi, Zinni, Emmanuele, Karkaletsis, Tombalato (Ferla 23), Minichiello.
MORWELL: Mautone, Canosa, Douglas, Parton, Sevin, Waddell, Markovski (Stergiopoulos 86), Armstrong, Trpcevski (Cassar 62), Djordjevic, Hannah.
SCORERS: Armstrong 11m for Morwell.
YELLOW CARDS: Della Rocca 12m, Kuzmanovic 79m for Brunswick. Douglas 59m, Parton 59m for Morwell.
REFEREE: C Naumcevski.
CROWD: 1500.
POY: Karkaletsis 3, Douglas 2, Hannah 1.

Mariani's last stand?

ROUND 19
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
HEIDELBERG UTD 2
By John Economos
at Leichhardt Oval

Heidelberg United made a dramatic and senstional second-half comeback, plunging Sydney Olympic's finals hopes into turmoil.

Olympic, holding a 1-0 first half lead, lost all their rhythm, composure and authority 10 minutes after half-time when the tenacious Brad Maloney was shown the red card for a hand-ball offence.

An understandably dejected Mariani lamented: "I thought, until the penalty incident, we had full control and were not in danger.

"But after we lost Maloney we seemed to lose all our composure. Obviously I am thoroughly disappointed with our second-half performance."

An elated Heidelberg coach Drago Sekularac paid special tribute to his courageous young side for their sterling second-half performance.

Sekularac reserved special praise for 19-year-old defender Richard Watson, and 17-year-old substitute Andrew Vlahos, for their valiant efforts in spite of their tender years.

Sekularac stated: "I am a very, very happy man for my young team which will now gain much needed confidence.

"We did not expect to win this match as I had to play too many young players, but to their credit they never let the club or me down."

The loss, Olympic's sixth for the season, has severely dented their aspirations for the play-offs at the end of the season.

Olympic failed to capitalise on their chances but their top goalscorer, Ivan Kelic, opened the score in the eighth minute, following a free kick by left midfielder Branko Milosevic.

Ten minutes into the second half, Heidelberg equalised in a sensational manner.

Referee Chris Smyth first flashed a red card at Maloney, then promptly pointed to the penalty spot.

Following a corner from the left by Brian MacNicol, giant centre back Doug Hodgson headed into the net, where Maloney was blatantly caught committing a hand-ball offence.

Scott blasted his shot from the penalty spot to equalise, despite Gibson getting a glove to the ball.

Against the run of play, Heidelberg took the lead 10 minutes from full-time to send Olympic crashing.

Peter Tiktikakis

Substitute Andrew Vlahos, who had come onto the pitch just 14 minutes before, scored the winner.

Striker Michalakopoulos exploded down the left, before crossing to find Vlahos, who cracked his drive past the advancing Olympic 'keeper Gibson.

This was the second time in the season that Olympic have lost to the team lying in last place on the ladder. The first time was against Melbourne BUSC under the guidance of their new coach Kenny Murphy.

Full credit must go to the Victorian side, whose midfield of Steve Iossifidis, Brian MacNicol and George Georgiadis repeatedly denied the more mobile Sydney Olympic space.

Olympic lacked fluency, with no less than four changes made by Mariani to the side that was demolished 7-1 by Marconi last week.

Olympic surprised their fans by taking the field without their hardworking striker Kris Trajanovski and left midfield speedster Joe Caleta on the bench.

Tony Spyridakos came into the side as sweeper, Augerinos slotted in at left back, Bernal came in as stopper-cum-midfielder, and a somewhat over-weight Derek Poimer came into the attack line in place of Trajanovski.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Sorras, Spyridakos, Augerinos, Maloney, Tsekenis, Bernal, Milosevic, Kelic, Poimer (Caleta 62).
HEIDELBERG UTD: Chatzitrifonas, Bratten, Watson, Hodgson, Selemidis, Scott, Iossifidis, MacNicol, Georgiadis, Tiktikakis (Vlahos 66), Michalakopoulos.
SCORERS: Kelic 8m for Sydney Olympic. Scott 55m for Heidelberg.
YELLOW CARDS: Bratten 35m, MacNicol 38m for Heidelberg.
REFEREE: C Smyth.
CROWD: 3,300.
POY: Watson 3, Michalakopoulos 2, Bernal 1.

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Tough Eagles deny Blues

ROUND 19
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0
PARRAMATTA EAGLES 0
By Con Stavros
at Middle Park

Parramatta Eagles Soccer Club

Parramatta kept their hopes of a spot in this year's finals series alive, after extracting a point from South Melbourne.

The Eagles relied on some good old-fashioned Rale Rasic discipline, two goalline clearances, and the effects of the heat and humidity for the draw.

Both sides suffered from depleted line-ups, with South Melbourne most affected by the loss of Kevin Muscat and Angie Goutzioulis, both through suspension.

The Blues, already short of defensive talent, were forced to plug the gaping hole at right back, left by the absence of Muscat, with attacking midfielder Steve Tasios.

The Eagles had Joe Spiteri watching from the sidelines through similar suspension difficulties, and their cause wasn't helped when defender Gerry Gomez limped off midway through the first half.

Lacking the creativity of Tasios further forward, South's front trio of Francis Awaritefe, Con Boutsianis and Peter Tsolakis were ineffective for the most part, with Eagles defenders Nick Orlic and John Koch outstanding.

The Blues rarely troubled the Eagles in the first half, with a blast from Tsolakis in the 11th minute that flashed just wide the most enterprising foray.

Tsolakis unleashed a typical power drive from a Boutsianis cross late in the second half, but was denied by the outstretched legs of the fortunate Eagles 'keeper, Peter Gunning.

Michael Valkanis: Impressive.

South had come perilously close to breaking the deadlock just a few minutes earlier, when Paul Wade's looping header was cleared off the line by the back-peddling Adam Ciantar.

The Eagles, for their part, were content to leave Marshall Soper as a lone target up forward, although the appearance of Geoff Gunning for the injured Gomez did give them a foil for Soper.

Both Soper and Gunning managed a neat break forward late in the first half for the Eagles' best chance in the match, but come showtime, Gunning hesitated and had his shot deflected wide.

Cameroon international Cyrille Ndongo Keller battled for the Eagles throughout, but he became another striker who has lowered his colours to Michael Valkanis in recent weeks. The 19-year-old centre back, now an Olyroo candidate, was once again in fine form and may just be the key to South Melbourne's finals hopes, given their brittle backline.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Anastasiadis, Hasler, Durakovic, Polak, Wade, Tsolakis, Tasios (Panopoulos 75), Trimboli, Boutsianis (Stubbins 84), Awaritefe, Valkanis.

PARRAMATTA: P. Gunning, Ciantar, Gwynne, Gomez (G. Gunning 23), Koch, Orlic, Moffitt, Naumovski, Soper, Ndongo Keller, Renaud.

SCORERS: Nil.

YELLOW CARDS: Hasler 33m for South Melbourne and Naumovski 64m for Parramatta.

REFEREE: Rob Davies.

CROWD: 3000.

POY POINTS: 3 — Koch (P), 2 — Valkanis (SM), 1 — Orlic (P).

Solid defence: Glen Gwynne helped keep South Melbourne scoreless.

Freak goal holds Wolves

ROUND 18
WOLLONGONG CITY 1
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD1
By Phil Murphy
at Brandon Park

Marconi had to rely on a lucky late goal to claim a draw with the improving Wollongong City.

David Ratcliffe's Wolves seemed on target for one of the big upsets of the season when they led 1-0 with just 11 minutes to go.

That was when the league champions turned on a brilliant build-up out of midfield to create the goal which salvaged a point.

The speed of the Marconi passing seemed to mesmerize Wollongong for the first time in the game and the ball went out to the unmarked Matthew Bingley on the left.

Bingley's cross was hooked clear by Wollongong full back Steve Forshaw, but the ball struck the knee of Marconi's Andy Harper and flew into the net.

"Sickening" was how Wolves captain Mick O'Shea described the equaliser.

"The boys worked so hard to get a result and we had to miss out to a goal like that," O'Shea said.

"It was a complete freak goal. Steve got the ball away, but it went straight into Harper and he didn't know what had happaned."

While Marconi was quite happy to head off home with a point, Ratcliffe was disappointed that his team didn't have the game sewn up at half-time.

After Kiwi striker Martin Ackers did well to head in a right-wing cross from a hard-working Pedro Ricoy, the Wolves had two great chances to go further ahead.

Mineo Bonetig found Vaughan Conveny on the right post, but his effort from an acute angle went along the goalline with no-one there to touch it home.

Ackers was then set up by Coveny and Scott Ollerenshaw, only to place the ball into the arms of Marconi goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer from 12 metres.

In the second half, it was Ollerenshaw and Ricoy who created a clear-cut opening for midfielder Matt Horsley, but he blasted the ball wide when he should have done a lot better.

Ratcliffe said he was pleased with the way his team had played, after some very ordinary efforts.

"There is a lot more commitment there, and we are playing the ball out from the back a lot better," he said.

Marconi didn't create as many clear scoring chances as the home team but Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes did well to deny George Jolevski and Jean-Pual de Marigny from first-half free kicks.

Marconi coach Frank Arok, who was involved in a second-half altercation with fourth official Con Diomis and referee Gerry Connelly over a hand-ball incident, was content with a point.

He said his team had to defend a lot in the first half, but played a lot better after half-time.

"We had three very good players out in Kim Taliadoros, Blagoja Kuleski and Ian Gray, but that has been the case most of the season," Arok said.

Bonetig, who only returned to the Wolves team the previous week after injury, had another strong game, as did Ricoy, O'Shea, Horsley and Richard Lloyd.

Marconi's best were Steve Corica despite being closely marked by rookie full back Sturart McLaren, and Bingley.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Forshaw, O'Shea, Lloyd, McLaren, Horsley, Bonetig (Dimoski 82), Ricoy, Coveny, Ackers (Krishna 88), Ollerenshaw.

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Jolevski, De Marigny, Bingley, Van Egmond, Corica, Harper, Meredith (Angelucci 72), Talay, Iocca, McCulloch (Casserley 63),

SCORERS: Ackers for Wollongong, Harper for Marconi.

POY POINTS: Bonetig— 3, Horsley — 2, Bingley — 1.

YELLOW CARDS: Ackers (36) for Wollongong, Harper (79) for Marconi

REFEREE: Gerry Connelly.

Brisbane fall to Knights

ROUND 19
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
MELB KNIGHTS 3
at Perry Park

High flying Melbourne Knights outclassed Brisbane Strikers, with Mark Viduka scoring his 15th goal in 15 games.

Andrew Marth, who on this form should walk into the Socceroo team, netted his seventh goal of the season, and unsung hero Adrian Cervinski claimed another sensational goal.

The Strikers were reduced to 10 men after just 23 minutes when captain Gary Phillips was shown the red card for a late tackle.

On this form Melbourne Knights, who have stretched their lead at the top of the table to four points, should win the league.

Scorers: A.Cervinski (29), Marth (42), Viduka (70).

Yellow Cards: Biskic, Juric, Viduka for Melbourne. Williams, Hunter, Jackson, T. Cranney for Brisbane.

Red Card: Phillips

Crowd: 3533 **Ref:** G. Dunster

Sensationally marched: Brisbane's Gary Phillips.

3-PAGE CLUB INFO'

Smith bows out

– Marconi-Fairfield by Anthony Raineri –

It's official — left midfielder Mike Smith will not play for Marconi again this season.

Coach Frank Arok said the club had given up hope of trying to get Smith, who is struggling to recover from torn stomach muscles, fit in time for him to mount a serious challenge for a first-grade spot.

Smith, 26, can now start preparing for season 1994/95.

The former Wollongong City player is on a two-season contract at Marconi.

Meanwhile, Marconi's 7-1 victory over arch-rivals Sydney Olympic 10 days ago did not come without a price.

A quarter of the starting eleven missed the following match — last Friday night — against the struggling, but always obstinate Wollongong City at Brandon Park.

Captain Ian Gray and striker Kimon Taliadoros were suspended while utility Blagoja Kuleski could not recover in time from a knock to the leg.

But with replacements of the calibre of Glenn Johnson, Darren Iocca, Tom McCulloch, Nick Meredith, Luke Casserly and Ian Pulari, the trio's loss was not felt too much in the 1-1 draw.

Experienced defender Jean-Paul De Marigny wore the captain's band against Wollongong in place of Gray.

Interest in tomorrow night's inaugural Club Champions' Cup match at Marconi Stadium between Marconi-Fairfield and Il Haw, of South Korea, has surprised even the host club's officials.

Marconi administrator Frank Secluna said the club had received countless calls from fans wanting to buy tickets.

The match, which will be televised live in prime time in South Korea, will kick-off at 6pm.

Since arriving in Sydney two weeks ago, the South Koreans have been training twice a day at the NSW Soccer Federation's facilities at Parklea.

Mike Smith: out for the season.

Midfield surplus

– South Melb by Dwyght Tufnell –

SOUTH Melbourne's surplus of midfielders has swelled even further. Ike Alagiozidis has almost recovered from injury and is ready to fight for a place in the team.

That of course comes on top of the news that Mike Petersen has returned from Malaysian club Pahang. In addition, the recent signing of Phil Stubbins from Heidelberg has added to what was already a headache for the Blues.

Petersen, Alagiozidis and Stubbins must now compete for places with the likes of Paul Trimboli, Jason Polak, Peter Tsolakis and Steve Tasios.

Petersen played in the youth team in the game against Morwell, the first time he has played for the club since limping out of last season's finals series.

Amazingly, he has offered to play without pay and has even said he will pay his own petrol money for a chance to compete for a spot.

Whilst South are strengthening their squad, the fact remains that they have only three recognised defenders in Kevin Muscat, Mehmet Durakovic and Michael Valkanis.

Injuries to either of these three would leave huge holes in the Blues defence.

This defensive shortage has given an opportunity to Valkanis, who has performed superbly in his role and has twice recently marked Morwell dangerman John Markovski out of games.

19-year-old Valkanis has cemented his place in the team after making only three substitute appearances last season, and the loss of key defenders David Healy and Steve Blair from last year's squad has helped him gain a position in the team.

Jason Polak: one of many South Melbourne midfielders.

Overseas interest

– Sydney Olympic by Sarah Clarry –

WITH Sydney Olympic getting closer to restoring their full complement of first-team players, Robbie Ironside is back in training after an arthroscope operation.

Despite the team's caning at the hands of Marconi, rumours are circulating that there may be some overseas interest in a few of the Olympic players.

While nothing is firm, Brad Maloney, Kris Trajanovski and two others have been named as possible targets for overseas contracts.

Colourful youth team coach Peter Katholos has once again found himself at the centre of controversy, this time surrounding the selection of his goalkeeper.

Talented young 'keeper Steve Tolios has been kept out of the youth side by the more experienced Gary Meier, and questions were being asked about the 19-year-old's future at the club.

But Katholos insists that nothing is further from the truth.

"I'm extremely happy with Steve, he's a very talented boy," Katholos said. "But I have no say in who comes down from first grade. I have to play them."

It's do or die for Katholos tonight when, after much talk and speculation, he finally fronts the Australian Soccer Federation tribunal to answer charges of bringing the game into disrepute.

The outcome will be watched with much interest by National League and NYL coaches nationwide, and is likely to set a precedent as far as public criticisms of referees is concerned.

Brad Maloney: rumoured to be the subject of overseas interest.

Shillabeer in doubt

– Adelaide City by Sarah Clarry –

ADELAIDE City received some distressing news recently, with Paul Shillabeer's future in serious doubt.

Shillabeer underwent his ninth knee operation on Friday week, and doctors have advised him against playing again.

The 30-year-old has been at the club since 1984, and has played in two grand finals with the team.

Now he has been told that if he decides to continue playing, he may suffer problems with mobility later on.

Club chairman and team manager Fred Lenzi said the news was devastating for everyone at the club.

"Paul has always been able to make a quick recovery. He has a heart as big as a lion," Lenzi said.

"He will be making a decision in the next week. Whatever happens, the club's very proud of him. We can't speak highly enough."

Goalkeeper Robert Zabica missed City's match against Wollongong last week with a driving muscle injury and suspected fractured finger, and his place was taken by Perth youngster Jason Petkovic.

Petkovic kept a clean sheet in his very first National League match, and from all reports has a big future at the club.

Carl Veart: will miss Shillabeer's contribution.

Crows take on Flugels

– SYDNEY UNITED BY ANTHONY RAINERI –

Leading Japanese "J" League club ANA Frugels will play Sydney United on Wednesday, February 16, at the Croatian Sports Centre.

Admission is free and the one-off match kicks off at 7.30pm.

ANA Flugels won the prestigious Emperor's Cup last year and they consistently finish in the top three in the league.

The match is part of ANA Flugel's end of season Australian tour.

Sydney United's enigmatic striker Manis Lamond missed last Sunday's match against Newcastle Breakers because of a lower back injury he sustained against Melbourne Knights the week before.

Lamond, 27, sustained the injury not long after he came on as a substitute at half-time.

He will struggle to shake off the injury in time for this week's home match against Brisbane Strikers.

Sydney United has given up-and-coming defender Tom Milicevic compassionate leave to visit his seriously ill grandfather in Croatia.

Milicevic left on Australia Day and is not expected back at Edensor Park until Sydney United's match against Brisbane Strikers this Sunday, February 13.

The 21-year-old Sydney United junior has played 12 first grade matches this season.

Manis Lamond: struggling with a lower back injury.

Birthday celebrations

– MELB. KNIGHTS BY DWYGHT TUFFNELL –

HAPPY Birthday to the Melbourne Knights soccer club.

The Knights are celebrating their 40th birthday after being formed in 1954 by Croatian migrants living in Melbourne and Geelong.

In 1957 the club was in the Victorian Second Division. Today, it is one of the most powerful clubs in Australia, and is currently sitting at the top of the CCSL.

The club celebrated in style on the day of their anniversary, by demolishing their sister club Sydney United.

Festivities began with a game between players who have represented the club in their 40 year history.

Ten minutes before the kick-off in the main game, the Knights paraded some of their greats, such as Jim McKay, Tom Cumming and Billy McIntyre, and these legends remained on hand to witness an awesome display by the present Knights side.

There will be no better way to cap off their 40th anniversary than with the CCSL championship.

After their 3-0 win against Bridbane Strikers, they are well on course to win the league and make up for back to back disappointments in the 1991 and 1992 grand finals.

The club also took the opportunity to announce plans to further upgrade the Croatian Sports Centre, with plans for floodlights and an electronic scoreboard.

The Knights are hoping to make their ground the showpiece of Victorian soccer and with the lights soon to be going up, they will be the only CCSL club in Melbourne to boast their own floodlighting.

40 years on: Melbourne Knights in action.

Orlic praises new boys

–PARRAMATTA BY ALFRED HIATT –

Nick Orlic, who has helped transform the Eagles' defence into one of the most solid in the league, praised Parramatta's new signings for boosting the club's play-off hopes

Orlic said: "Ljubco Naumovski is a class player, and it really shows. He's settled in very well, and we're playing more freely as a result.

"As for Cyrille [Ndongo Keller], he's a very good player, and you'll hear a lot more about him."

Orlic said the team will be treating every game as a grand final as it pushes towards the play-offs.

"Rale prepares us for one team each week, and that's the way we play them."

Orlic has impressed many observers with his work at stopper, but he insists there is room for improvement.

He said: "I'm never happy with my own form. People say good things about me, but nobody knows what my limit is.

"At the moment I'm working on my positional play, and trying to get forward more in general play."

The Eagles, who took on Korean champions Il Haw yesterday, will play "J" League side Jubilo Iwata on March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

On the prowl : Nick Orlic.

Clarke blasts ASF's role

– NEWCASTLE BY RICHARD FRENCH –

A rescue package involving the Newcastle Breakers' three major creditors should save the club from a ruinous financial state which the club's general manager, Pat Clarke, says was largely caused by the Australian Soccer Federation.

Attention was centred last week on the sacking of coach Jim Foley, his replacement by former Socceroo Graham Jennings as player-coach, and a decision to defer putting star striker Warren Spink on the transfer list.

But in the meantime Clarke, formerly the boss of State League club Adamstown Rosebud, has been working overtime to find a way for the Breakers to meet their debts of about $2.5 million.

Clarke is confident that the club's major creditors and many of the smaller companies to which it owes money will realise that taking the Breakers to the brink of bankruptcy will help no-one.

He said late last week that the Westpac bank, to which the Breakers owe much of the money they were forced to borrow to meet the ASF's criterion to enter the league three years ago, the State Government, which provided a low-interest $600,000 loan for a grandstand, and Beneficial Finance, which funded the magnificent lighting at Mitre 10 Stadium, were willing to help the club.

Man in the hot seat: Graham Jennings.

Entertaining derby clash

– WEST ADELAIDE BY SARAH CLARRY –

West Adelaide pulled out all stops to ensure that their derby match against Adelaide City was an entertaining one for the spectators.

The club secured a $15,000 winner-takes-all bonus from Fairmont Homes' Gordon Pickard, who sponsored the match, and organised a $5,000 penalty shootout for the half-time break.

The West Adelaide Central Marketeers took on the Adelaide City Fairmont Flyers, with the object of the competition being the possibility for each competitor to earn $500 for their club by scoring a goal, and a further $500 if they saved a penalty.

The Central Marketeers featured George Donikian, of Channel 10, Harry Zacharoyannis, West Adelaide's club president, and Ken Cunningham of 5AA/Channel 9.

The Fairmont Flyers also boasted a celebrity-studded line-up, with David Hookes from 5AA, Adelaide City's president Charlie Zollo, and sponsor Fairmont Homes' Gordon Pickard.

Also appearing for the Flyers were Channel 9's Kim Dillon and Frank Pangello from 5RPH/Channel 10.

The shoulder injury Peter Blazincic sustained in the Sharks' encounter with Parramatta was unfortunately serious enough to prevent him playing in the derby.

George Haniotis was another who returned for the Adelaide City match. He came back from suspension to start the game, forcing Greg Mills back onto the bench.

West Adelaide in action.

New stand opened

– Morwell Falcons by Dwyght Tuffnell –

MORWELL Falcons have officially opened their new stand at Morwell Falcons Park.

Everyone from politicians to Australian Soccer Federation officialdom were on hand to see the opening of the Don DiFabrizio stand, named in honour of the former Falcons president.

ASF chief executive Ian Holmes praised the Falcons for their hard work in upgrading the venue, and said that they showed more initiative than many clubs from the capital cities.

Victorian Deputy Premier, Pat McNamara, opened the stand, as dancing girls, a band and parachutists all helped to create a great atmosphere and a great night for the folk of Morwell.

The $1.6 million dollar stand also contributed to the large crowd of around 8200, the biggest ever at Morwell Reserve.

Falcons Park is now one of the best CCSL grounds in Victoria and at the moment the only one in the state with floodlights.

More changes are also planned by the Falcons and they hope to transform it into one of the best stadiums in Australia.

John Markovski: one of the stars of Morwell's season.

In team news, the Falcons have regained midfielder John Waddell.

The talented utility, injured in a Victorian Premier League final game last year, will be a welcome addition to the squad, who have suffered recent injuries.

The Falcons remain adamant they can make the Top Six and in just their second season that would be a terrific achievement.

Obradovic leaving

– Heidelberg United by Con Stavros –

HEIDELBERG's extraordinarily bad season couldn't get much worse, could it?

Well unfortunately Berger fans, I'm afraid things aren't exactly looking up at Olympic Village.

The latest tale of woe eminating from the embattled Heidelberg camp is that import midfielder Nemanja Obradovic has been transfer-listed following a dispute at the club with one of his teammates.

Spies at the Village allege that Obradovic recently became involved in an altercation with one of the veteran Bergers, following their 5-0 drubbing by the Melbourne Knights. According to reports, Obradovic had a run-in with club skipper Gary Bratten.

"They had an argument on the field when Bratten ordered Obradovic to chase a player and Obradovic told him to go to hell," confirmed club President, Peter Tsaklis.

Obradovic was subsequently a conspicious absentee from the Heidelberg side that was beaten by Brisbane 1-0 in Round 18.

"If he finds a club he can go," continued Tsaklis.

In that game, Brisbane suffered the rare honour of being installed a clear road favourite, something the notoriously poor travelling Strikers rarely achieve. Naturally, they lived up to their favouritism, inflicting Heidelberg's fifth loss in succession.

If Obradovic ultimately leaves, the Bergers will lose their leading marksman of the season.

After the first 18 rounds Heidelberg had scored just twelve goals. Obradovic had scored five of that dozen, with the next best being former South Melbourne striker Michael Michalakopoulos, on a total of four.

Michalakopoulos has lacked midfield support all season with the mass exodus of talent at Olympic Village, although the loss of names like Phil Stubbins, David Clarkson and George Slifkas has obviously had a bigger impact on his strike buddy this year, Danny Gnjidic.

The former Fawkner star is not exactly setting the CCSL on fire in his second year. In half a season of matches last year, Gnjidic nabbed five goals for a respectable strike rate. After playing the majority of games this year, the striker failed to score in the first 18 rounds.

Michael Michalakopoulos: Heidelberg's second leading goalscoerer

Academy side running hot

– Brisbane by Glenn Davis –

BRISBANE Strikers would have to be the success story of Queensland sport this summer, but the newly formed Queensland Academy side also is playing its part in the code's rejuvenation.

The Queensland Academy side is currently mid-table after a dour 1-0 win over the Australian Institute of Sport team in Canberra last week.

Coach Juan Cutilas hailed the win as the highlight of the season for the youngsters.

"It was a tremendous effort by the boys," he said.

"The AIS dominated but it was a good test of character won against all odds."

QAS players Craig Jones, Roy Huth and Toowoomba youngsters Ben Wood and Chay Hews have been some of the success stories this season, and all are being touted as future Strikers.

Their performances haven't gone unnoticed by Strikers coach Bruce Stowell who has turned the fortunes of the senior side around this year after last season's abysmal efforts.

Stowell now has plenty of youth to choose from in Brisbane and the future of Queensland soccer in the National League has never looked brighter.

Bruce Stowell: has noticed the performances of the Academy side.

Crowds are now flocking to Perry Park, highlighted by a record 4000-plus crowd when the Strikers beat Marconi 2-0 on Australia Day. And, judging by recent articles, the media in Brisbane is finally getting behind the code.

The Academy side, chosen from the rising stars in the local Fourex League, has been a huge hit with the public, who now see two quality games each home weekend.

Unlike some clubs whose spectators turn up at the death to watch the main game interstate, the Academy team has a steadily built up its own strong nucleus of supporters

Wolves safe, says Holmes

– Wollongong by Phil Murphy –

If there were any threats of relegation hanging over Wollongong City, Ian Holmes dispelled them during a visit to the South Coast.

Addressing a meeting of Wolves foundation members and Howlers Club members, the Australian Soccer Federation chief executive said there was no way their team would be relegated this season.

It was generally felt that if a club was relegated this season it would come from Wollongong, Newcastle, Brisbane, Adelaide or Morwell.

Sydney and Melbourne clubs had been "up for relegation" last season.

Holmes said the ASF had never intended that there would be automatic relegation. He said clubs such as Wollongong were an asset to the Coca-Cola Soccer League.

"Wollongong is a very stable club and fulfils its obligations in every way," Holmes said.

"They have a very fine stadium at Brandon Park and Wollongong is a vital part of the league."

Holmes told the Wollongong members he wants to introduce a contract system between clubs and the ASF. He explained that this would allow clubs to plan over a long-term and take a lot of pressure off club directors.

"We have been concerned that clubs aren't able to plan more than one season ahead for fear of relegation," Holmes said.

"In the past we have seen clubs put off developing grounds in a bid to buy a regular place in the league.

"Wollongong has been one club which has got its priorities right.

"They have never thrown money around to buy players at the expense of their ground and facilities.

"If a club signs a contract with the ASF, they can't be excluded just because they finish last.

"The ASF would only be able to get rid of a club if it becomes guilty of a criminal offence or other such serious matters."

Holmes also outlined the continuing cost of backing our international teams — the Joeys, Young Socceroos, our Olympic squad and the senior squad.

He said that support caused financial strain on the ASF but it was determined to continue the current backing.

"Our current program has been successful in recent years, with our four teams more than justifying the money being spent on them," Holmes said.

"Australia's current international standing proves that."

Zinni praises Murphy magic

– Melb BUSC by Dwyght Tuffnell–

BRUNSWICK Pumas' new coach Ken Murphy certainly has lifted the morale of his players, according to veteran striker Andrew Zinni.

So much so, that after their recent 1-0 loss to South Melbourne, the Pumas were extremely disappointed, whereas a couple of weeks ago they would have been pleased not to have been beaten by four or five goals.

"Ken's got a way of getting to players and getting the best out of them," says Zinni.

Zinni explained that most of the players have been playing out of position and the first thing Murphy did was to revert them back to their normal roles.

Ken Murphy: an inspiration.

Alexander Kuzmanovic is perhaps the best example of this.

First playing at right back, Murphy then switched him to sweeper, where he has been a sensation and is being compared to the likes of Milan Ivanovic.

"Ken analyses the games we are playing on a weekly basis and looks at the opposition's strengths and weaknesses and capitalises on them," said Zinni, a former CCSL player of the year.

Murphy's influence is clearly displayed in recent results and the side is now in a settled formation.

The Pumas have used 26 players so far this season. Many are no longer with the club, whilst $50,000 signing Ransford Banini is out action with a long-term injury.

Only Robbie Ferla and Paul Della Rocca remain from the Pumas' Premier League side and are the only former Brunswick players to be playing regularly in the CCSL from that side.

NORTHERN DIVISION WITH PETER KONSTO

✣ RESULTS ✣

MID-WEEK RESULTS

Wollongong City (Morris 73, 77) 2 Parramatta Eagles 0, Queensland Academy (Evans 30) 1 Wollongong City 2 Marconi Fairfield 2 (White, Luff) (Tirripano, Skateric) Queensland Academy 6 Parramatta Colts 4 (Collins 2, Evans, Hews, (Lester, Portelli, aythornthwaite, Hillier 2) Cicek) Sydney Olympic Colts 1 Marconi Academy 3 (Battisti) (Harris 2 (pen), Bosevski) Sydney Olympic 2 AIS 2 (Lee, Buoglavilla) (Naglieri, Carter) Sydney United 4 Newcastle BHP 1 (Moore, Moric, Babic 2) (Zane)

ACT Academy v Parramatta Eagles

(to be played on Sunday 27/3/94)

✣ FIXTURES ✣

SAT Marconi Fairfield v Marconi Academy, 5.30 Marconi Stadium.
SAT AIS v Wollongong City, 7.00 AIS Athletics Field.
SUN Sydney United v QAS, 4,30 Croatian Sports Centre.
SUN Parramatta Colts v Sydney Olympic, 4.30 Melita Stadium.
SUN ACT Academy v Sydney Olympic Colts, 5.00 AIS Athletics Field.
16/2 Sydney Olympic Colts v Sydney Olympic, 7.30 Leichhardt Oval.

✣ TABLES ✣

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	16	13	1	2	42	11	40
Sydney Olympic	16	9	5	2	34	23	32
QAS	15	6	3	6	28	24	21
Newcastle BHP	15	6	3	6	28	26	21
Wollongong City	15	5	5	5	26	23	20
Marconi Acad.	15	6	2	7	31	33	20
P'matta Eagles	15	5	4	6	27	25	19
Marconi-Fairfield	17	5	4	8	29	45	19
AIS	12	5	3	4	36	17	18
Olympic Colts	15	5	3	7	24	28	18
Parramatta Colts	15	4	2	9	19	38	14
ACT IS	14	2	3	9	15	46	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Zeljko Babic	Sydney United	12
Zlatko Mihljovic	Marconi Fairfield	11
Jeromy Harris	Marconi Acad	10
Colin Luff	Wollongong City	9
Mario Jermen	Sydney United	9
Darren Iocca	Marconi Fairfield	8
Gianpaulo Buonavoglia	Syd Olyc	7
Harry James	Newcastle BHP	7
Peter Vezos	Syd Oly C.	7
Evangelos Petratos	Syd Oly	7
Nick Bosevski	Marconi Academy	6
Daniel Escobar	Marconi Academy	5
Malcolm Meilak	Parramatta Eagles	5
Ian Morris	Wollongong City	5
Sebastian Naglieri	AIS	5
Derek Poimer	Sydney Olympic	5
Stuart McLaren	Wollongong City	5
Josip Skoko	AIS	5
Lawrie McKinna	Newcastle BHP	5

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

DARREN McDONALD

(MARCONI ACADEMY)

DATE OF BIRTH: 1.3.76
PREVIOUS CLUB/S: Sutherland, St George and Parramatta Eagles
POSITION: Central midfield
AGE STARTED PLAYING: 5 years with Como West Jannali
MOST ADMIRED OVERSEAS PLAYERS: Giusippe Signori and Frank Rijkaard
MOST ADMIRED LOCAL PLAYER: Steven Corica
BIGGEST INFLUENCES: My family and friends
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: NSW U/13 and recent tour of Venezuela with Australian Youth team.
GREATEST SKILL: Vision and fitness.
WHAT DO YOU NEED WORK ON? Speed and sharpness.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Pasta and scones
AMBITION: To represent Australia in the '95 Youth team and to play first grade with Marconi.
HOBBIES: Fishing and surfing.

SPOTLIGHT GAME

BY SARAH CLARRY

In a fortnight when referees, especially from the Youth League, have been in the spotlight of controversy, another potentially entertaining game was marred by an almost continual flurry of bookings and whistle blowing.

The many highlights in Sydney Olympic's 2-2 draw with the AIS at Leichhardt were overshadowed by nine yellow cards and a send off.

Institute's Tommy Sermanni said after the game: "Over-zealous refereeing created tension in a match where there wasn't one bad challenge".

A problem is certainly evident when players are being cautioned for objecting to free kicks awarded to their own team.

Despite this, it was a highly entertaining display, and Sermanni said the first half was the best he had seen the AIS play since the new squad arrived.

"We implemented the things we'd done in training," he said. "We created several good chances but we must learn to be a bit more ruthless in our approach and finish them."

The Institute couldn't have started much more ruthlessly, opening the scoring as early as the third minute.

Sebastian Naglieri broke away on the halfway line, met one challenge, and beat his defender before running on and pushing his shot past Olympic keeper Steve Tolios.

But Olympic were back on equal terms midway through the first half, when Grant Lee got on the end of a deep cross and chipped the 'keeper from the far post.

The AIS were in command once again when Hayden Foxe took a free kick and found Naglieri, who headed the ball back into the area. It fell at the feet of Johnathon Carter, who knocked it home.

Olympic almost scrambled back when Norman Tome, another Olympic player with first-grade experience, struck a powerful drive from a corner by Lee.

But the Institute's John Angelovski showed lightning reflexes to clear what appeared to be a certain goal.

Olympic's Jimmy Nikas, playing against a side he once represented, proved the Institute's undoing.

He made a clever play up the centre before laying it off for the prolific John Buonavoglia to finish.

The final 10 minutes of the match saw referee Simon Micallef award yellow cards to Gerry Mamolis for Olympic, and Josip Simunic, Carter, Naglieri and Con Blatsis for the AIS, with Blatsis receiving his marching orders for his second card of the game.

It was a disappointing finish to such an open and clean-fought game and highlights the desperate need for attention in this area.

This time Olympic coach Peter Katholos wasn't the only one complaining.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Tolios, Adriotoulos (Maucheri 39), Mamolis, Kapsalis, Draganoudis, Guzzo, Lee, Nikas, Tome, Buonavoglia, Knezevic (Navarrette 76).

AIS: Milosevic, McDermott, Blatsis, Foxe, Angelovski, Ristevski (Neill 70), Simunic (Paradisis 88), Garcia, Carter, Naglieri, Carbone.

SCORERS: Lee 25m, Buonavoglia 62m for Olympic. Naglieri 3m, Carter 35m for AIS.

YELLOW CARDS: Mauceri 41m, Nikas 44m, Tome 50m, Mamolis 83m for Olympic. Blatsis 14m, Carter 83m, Simunic 86m, Naglieri 91m for AIS.

RED CARD: Blatsis 90m for AIS.

REFEREE: S Micallef.

ROUND-UP

BY PETER KONSTO

Sydney United showed why they are the team to beat in the Northern Division this season, with their 4-1 victory over third-placed Newcastle BHP Breakers, at Edenser Park on Sunday.

The hot conditions contributed to a lacklustre first half which saw both teams unable to string more than a few passes together.

United were virtually camped in the Newcastle half of the field for almost the entire second half, drawing a series of outstanding saves from Breakers' keeper, Steven Angelov.

This relentless pressure led to a Chad Gibson corner, and there was nothing Angelov could do when Adam Moore rose high to beat him to the ball, and head home the game's opening goal.

Just five minutes later, and against the run of play, Newcastle equalised when the skilful Troy Haplin won the ball in midfield, and delivered a perfect pass for Clayton Zane to slam past Tony Franken in the United goal.

It looked as though Newcastle were going to escape with a vital away point to the League leaders, when the elusive Zeljko Babic set up a left-foot strike for Ante Moric.

His shot gave Angelov no chance, as its sheer power was enough to beat him and give United the lead in the 80th minute.

One minute later Babic made sure of the three points, when a defensive error saw him race away with the ball and shoot past the advancing Angelov. Babic got his second of the game right on full-time, when his 30 yard drive hit the bottom of the crossbar and went in.

Wollongong City continued their habit of dropping points from winning positions in their 2-2 draw against Marconi Fairfield at Brandon Park last Friday.

Wolves' midfielder Chris Jankulovski had an outstanding game, and both of Wollongong's goals came from his passes.

The home side hit the lead in the 25th minute after Jankulovski won the ball in midfield and beat two defenders, before supplying the perfect pass for Dale White to score.

Wollongong's leading goalscorer, Colin Luff, put his side further into the lead in the 55th minute, again from a Jankulovski pass, however, after this, the half belonged to Marconi.

Straight from the ensuing free kick, the Wolves were caught napping and Vince Panpano got one back for Marconi in the 56th minute.

Marconi's efforts were rewarded in the 70th minute through Skaparis, whose long range shot found its target to earn his team a difficult away point.

Wollongong City coach, Richard Evans, was most disappointed with his players dropping five of six points in their last two games after leading in them.

"We are not worthy of being Top Four contenders if we continue to give away points this way," he said.

In an absolute goal feast at Perry Park, the Queensland Academy defeated the Parramatta Colts 6-4 last Saturday.

The QAS led the Parramatta Colts 3-1 at half-time, and the score actually reached 5-4 before the Queenlanders made sure of all three points with their sixth goal of the game.

In the only other game played, the Sydney Olympic Colts lost at home to the improving Marconi Academy 3-1 at Leichhardt Oval last Saturday.

SOUTHERN DIVISION WITH ROY HAY

✣ RESULTS ✣

Round Three Catch-up game
Wednesday February 2
Bulleen (Bianco 3, Prinsen 2) 5
Doncaster Rovers 0.
Round Nineteen
Friday February 4
Springvale City (Spina, Lettieri, Kamberov) 3 Heidelberg United (Tyrikos 2, Curcija 2, Karapatsos) 5.
Saturday February 5
South Melbourne (Goutzioulis 2, Utting, Kiratzoglou, Petersen, Komilionis, Verikakis, Carey) 8 Sunshine George Cross (Tsirtsakis, Markovski) 2, Preston (Stavrevski, Nedanovski, Dimitrievski) 3 Melbourne Knights (Colina, Kasun) 2, Albion (Osman) 1 VIS (Lazarevski 3) 3, Bulleen (Iebbiano 2, Nasso, Groidis) 4 Altona Gate (Atanasovski) 1, North Geelong (Saric, Dulic) 2 Doncaster Rovers 0.
Round Nineteen
Sunday 6 Feb 1994
Brunswick Pumas 1
Morwell Falcons 1
(Genovesi) (Koppen)

✣ TABLE ✣

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sth Melbourne	19	15	3	1	62	18	48
VIS	19	15	0	4	55	24	45
Heidelberg Utd	19	13	1	5	50	25	40
Brunswick Pumas	19	12	2	5	60	19	38
Bulleen	19	8	6	5	34	23	30
Morwell Falcons	19	9	2	8	49	32	29
Melb Knights	19	8	4	7	38	34	28
Altona Gate	19	8	0	11	37	47	24
Preston	19	6	5	8	31	37	23
Nth Geelong	19	7	2	10	33	52	23
Springvale City	19	5	2	12	24	62	17
Albion	19	4	2	13	27	52	14
Sunshine GC	19	3	4	12	29	62	13
Doncaster R	19	2	3	14	18	60	9

✣ FIXTURES ✣

Round Twenty February 12
Morwell Falcons v Doncaster Rovers (5pm, Morwell Falcons Park)
Sunday February 13
Sunshine George Cross v Brunswick Pumas (4pm, Chaplin Reserve)
Altona Gate v South Melbourne (6pm, Paisley Park)
VIS v Bulleen (4pm, Paisley Park)
Heidelberg United v Albion (3.45pm, Olympic Village)
Melbourne Knights v Springvale City (3.45pm, Somers Street)
Preston v North Geelong (4pm, Connor Reserve)

✣ LEADING ✣ GOALSCORERS

Nick Lazarevski	VIS	19
Michael Curcija	Heidelberg Utd	18
Theo Mihaloglou	Sth Melbourne	16
Ivan Skoko	North Geelong	15
Daniel Genovese	Brunswick Pumas	13
Carlo Villani	Morwell Falcons	13
Vaughan Coveney	Melbourne Knights	12
Steve Bogdanovski	Altona Gate	10
Steve Panopoulos	Sth Melbourne	9
John Verikakis	Sth Melbourne	9
Joe Tricarico	VIS	9
Antonio Napolitano	Doncaster Rovers	8

✣ ROUND-UP MATCHES ✣

SPOTLIGHT GAME

BY ROY HAY

ALBION 1
VIS 3

Nick Lazarevski boosted his chances of making the next Young Socceroo squad with a brilliant hat-trick, his fourth of the season, in front of national youth coach Les Scheinflug, at Selwyn Park against Albion. The match was played in sweltering conditions, but it started at a fierce pace.

Danny Madarovski crossed from the right and Lazarevski controlled the ball, beat his man, and shot truly after only 70 seconds. Nine minutes later he made it two, heading home a pass from Ozan Fehmi. Albion came back strongly and Ramadan Osman fired in a shot which Peter Zois tipped over the bar to preserve the VIS led.

Andy Vargas was the king of midfield, while Joeys sweeper Dragi Nastevski and Allan McClure were solid in defence. Lev Osman gave them a scare, with a fine run and a shot once again saved by Zois, then Remzi Abak hit the crossbar. The VIS did likewise twice in the second half, as Robert Liucci and substitute Clayton Bell struck the woodwork. Lazarevski completed his hat-trick with a first-time half volley into the roof of the net, but Albion might have had a penalty when Lev Osman was halted on the 16-metre line. He was not to be denied his reward for a persistent game, however, because with two minutes to play, he latched on to a long ball and finished sweetly. This was a tremendous game under difficult conditions, and both sides deserve credit for the high standard shown.

ROUND-UP

In the last of the outstanding catch-up games Bulleen downed Doncaster Rovers by five goals to nil at the Veneto club. Midfielder Lewis Bianco scored a hat-trick and Jamie Prinsen added the other two.

Springvale City and Heidelberg United scored eight goals between them, but it could have been more according to Norm Jackson. Tony Spina put Springie ahead and Tony Lettieri brought it level after Michael Tyrikos and defender Tom Karapatsos had scored for Heidelberg. Leading scorer Michael Curcija added two to his tally and Tyrikos got another, then after missing a penalty, Springie got one back through Joe Kamberov. 5-3 to Heidelberg it finished.

South Melbourne and Sunshine George Cross contributed 10 in their match at Middle Park, with the Blues running out 8-2 winners. Substitute George Goutzioulis scored two late goals, Mike Utting got the first from the penalty spot, continuing a long line of South Melbourne 'keepers who have taken penalties. Mike Petersen contributed a gem from far out, as he continued his comeback. Arthur Tsirtsakis and Sasha Markovski got Georgie's goals.

Bulleen hit fine form against Altona Gate, with David Iebbiano scoring twice, and the returning Michael Nasso and Peter Groidis getting the others. Zdravko Atanasovski scored for an Altona Gate side which was always in the game.

Preston had a fine 3-2 win over Melbourne Knights, though it surrendered another 2-0 lead, and had to rely on a last-minute goal by Jani Dimitrievski to secure the points.

North Geelong ended a run of defeats with a two-goal win over Doncaster Rovers. The scorers were two of the youngest members of the squad, Grgo Saric and Mate Dulic.

Brunswick Pumas and Morwell Falcons drew 1-1 at Somers Street on Sunday. Daniel Genovesi notched his 13th goal of the season to give the Pumas the advantage, but Dean Vella equalised for the Falcons.

Preview of Round Twenty-One

The VIS against Bulleen should produce a classic match next week at Paisley Park. It will be followed by Altona Gate against league leader South Melbourne, so there should be the biggest youth league crowd of the season for this double-header.

On Saturday Morwell Falcons should continue its good run at the expense of Doncaster Rovers. In the other games on Sunday, the Pumas will be too strong for George Cross at Chaplin Reserve, Heidelberg United should account for Albion, the Knights might just shade Springvale City, and Preston will have too much experience for North Geelong.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

NICK LAZAREVSKI

Fact File

Name: Nick Lazarevski
Date of birth: 29th October 1975
Present club: Victorian Institute of Sport
Previous clubs: Lalor United, Preston
Position: Striker
Honours: Preston Seniors, Victorian squads, Australian schoolboys
Greatest influence: Oscar Crino developed me from a junior to a senior
Greatest skill: Scoring goals
What do you need to work on: Ball control
Ambition: To play for Australia. To play overseas.
Coaching tip: Listen to your coach. Train as often as possible. Go for goal.

Nick Lazarevski has been the scoring sensation of the National Youth League Southern Division in recent weeks. With 19 goals in 19 rounds including four hat-tricks he is terrorising defences with his fast, direct approach to goal. In the early part of the season he was playing off central striker Joe Tricarico, who has now moved to the Brunswick Pumas, leaving Lazarevski to shoulder the responsibility, which he has done brilliantly.

PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

All players will take part in a vote for the National Youth League Players' Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year.

Voting papers will be distributed before the last round of matches. Get to know your opponents, so you know whom to vote for at the end of the year.

REMINDER TO CLUBS AND REFEREES

Would all clubs and referees ensure that they phone results and scorers for both teams to Roy Hay on 052-435966 on Sundays so that the information can be supplied to the press, radio and TV as soon as possible.

I also need the information for the NYL 0055 number, so don't forget or your players and supporters will be upset. Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter and distribute it to your players and supporters.

The new generation

"Brendan's got a great chance of making the Olympic team"
—*PETER GUNNING*

Brendan Renaud is learning his footballing trade in the nation's toughest school

Brendan Renaud fact file:
Born: 21.8.73
Previous Clubs: North Rocks, Granville, Blacktown City
Representative honours: NSW Under 13, 1986. Australian Indoor team, 1988 tour of Japan (team's highest goalscorer, and voted Player of the Series).
CCSL games: 3
CCSL goals: 1

BY ALFRED HIATT

Brendan Renaud's apprenticeship is coming to an end.

The 20-year-old, who will become a fully qualified tradesman on Thursday, is currently learning his footballing craft in the rigourous atmosphere of

the National League.

Young players face a baptism by fire when they try to make the transition from the youth team to the top rank, and the solid midfielder, who scored in the Eagles' League Cup victory, is no exception.

But so far, with a little help from one of the league's toughest enforcers, Renaud has stood the test battle-hardened first-grade veterans pose to newcomers.

"They see a young bloke, and they try to test you out," says Renaud. "Once you get through they respect you for it, but it's a battle out there.

"After the Cup final I was totally exhausted, even though I only played for 20 minutes. At this level, it's your arms that get tired, not just your legs, because you have to use your whole body.

"That's where Marshall Soper is great. He'll hit you in training, but you know

you'll get hit twice as hard in a match."

In fact, the former North Rocks junior has handled his elevation to the school of hard knocks so impressively that he is regarded as a future international by coach and teammates. Goalkeeper Peter Gunning has no doubts about Renaud's talent.

"Brendan has done an unbelieveable job since coming into the side," says Gunning.

"He is lucky enough to have been born with great engines, and a terrific desire to achieve and succeed at what he does.

"He's dynamite, and if he stays injury free, I think Brendan's got a great chance of making the team for the Atlanta Olympics."

Not that Renaud himself is interested in engaging in such speculation.

"At the moment I just want to take it step by step, get known, and keep my head," he says.

"It was a shock the first time I saw myself on T.V., and if you start thinking about things like that you can end up doing silly things on the field.

"But I've always grown up with tough coaches, who rip into you when you do something wrong. Sometimes that hurts, but you end up a better player for it.

"Brian Crews at North Rocks, and Allan Maher at Granville taught me a lot about discipline in my early years, and Bernie Duval, who coached me during the period when I played indoor soccer for Australia, had a huge impact on me."

Self-discipline and keeping his head are Renaud's specialities. One year ago he contemplated travelling to England to pursue a full-time soccer career, but settled instead for the security of a job learning the trade of a carpenter.

"I thought about going overseas, and arranging a trial, but in the end the apprenticeship seemed safer," says Renaud, a lifelong Liverpool and Kenny Dalglish fan.

"It's important for me to have time away from soccer. Maybe guys like Marshall can live just for soccer, but for me there has to be a time for other things."

Renaud learnt the hard way that football is a dangerous obsession. He suffered a shattering blow when, for no apparent reason, he was dropped from the NSW Under 13 squad.

"Perhaps it was childish, but at the time I was devastated. I couldn't work out why it had happened. I thought, what's wrong with me? What have I done?

"Luckily my whole family rallied round, and my Dad really helped by telling me that there would always be people who would say I wasn't good enough, and the thing was to go out and prove them wrong."

For the moment, Renaud is happy proving the doubters wrong at Melita Stadium, where he has impressed coach Rale Rasic.

"Brendan's attitude is the difference between him and other young players. He also has incredible speed, and a great shot off both feet," says Rasic.

Renaud's determination to improve himself has seen him mature as a player. A naturally left-footed player, he worked on his right foot until he could shoot off either side.

He also keeps an eye out for the talents of his teammates; at the moment he is trying to copy the explosive speed of Gabriel Mendez, and is working on emulating the forward drive of Geoff Gunning.

Renaud says he gets most pleasure from achieving the goals he sets himself, and that knack of turning ambitions into reality was in evidence during the Cup final.

The night before the game he told the team psychologist, Neil Watkins, he would score the next day. Five minutes from time, he fulfilled his own prophecy by spearing a header past Zeljko Kalac to ensure the Cup went to Parramatta.

Last Saturday Renaud achieved a personal ambition by playing against boyhood idol Paul Wade, in what was only his third full CCSL game.

That capped a remarkable rise for a player who admits that one year ago he didn't bother to watch first-grade games after the finish of his youth team matches.

"That's one of the problems with the way the game is promoted in this country," Renaud comments.

"Most people wouldn't know who the first graders are. A year ago I didn't know who Aurelio Vidmar was.

"I used to stay for 10 minutes after my Under 19 game, and then go home."

Now, Renaud is determined to be a part of Parramatta's quest for a play-off spot.

"I will try everything in my power to get us into the Top Six.

"We'll be the dark horses, but we always enjoy proving wrong the critics who have written us off.

"It is important for me to keep on building, because there's so much to learn. I don't want to be a one-week wonder. I want to be a good Australian player."

All the signs are that the Eagles' apprentice is about to pass the CCSL's toughest test with flying colours.

SOCCER WEEKLY'S NEW SERIES

With the Coca Cola Soccer League entering its final stages, Soccer Weekly's Anthony Raineri asks former Socceroo and Marconi-Fairfield star, Tony Henderson, who he thinks will make the Top Six, and who will win the grand final.

MARCONI-Fairfield's juggernaut will sail full steam ahead to their second successive Coca-Cola Soccer League title by defeating South Melbourne in the grand final.

The Melbourne Knights, despite finishing minor premiers, will just miss out on the big match.

As for the dark horse, the unpredictable but always spectacular Sydney Olympic looms as the giant killers.

That is the opinion of former Socceroo captain Tony Henderson, who in retirement is following the CCSL as closely as ever.

An uncompromising sweeper, Henderson played 51 times for the Socceroos between 1979 and 1984, including 27 "A" internationals and many as captain.

He played for Marconi from 1979 to 1988, winning championships in his first and last seasons.

Since retiring as a player, Henderson, now 40, has coached Blacktown City and Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the NSW Super League.

He was involved with the Parramatta Eagles juniors for 18 months until increasing work commitments caused him to resign recently.

He hopes to get back into coaching one day.

Henderson's Top Six:
1st Melbourne Knights
2nd South Melbourne
3rd Marconi-Fairfield
4th Adelaide City
5th Sydney United
6th Sydney Olympic ("if they retain Berti Mariani")

Tony Henderson

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Henderson says:

"They have a good, young side with players like Mark Viduka, Adrian Cervinski and Oliver Pondeljak. But their best player, without doubt, is the veteran Josip Biskic, who has had an outstanding past couple of seasons. He is what makes the Knights tick.

Josip Biskic

"As long as he stays healthy, the Knights will be very hard to beat. The team is playing percentage soccer.

"Defender Andrew Marth is a very forceful and strong player. He is carrying a few injuries, so the Knights have to hope he stays healthy.

The Knights should do well."

John Pyrgolios

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

Henderson says:

"Marconi is the sleeping giant which has just awoken. They have been trundling along for the last seven or eight games picking up points and the occasional defeat. They are the team everyone has to watch out for. They are strong everywhere.

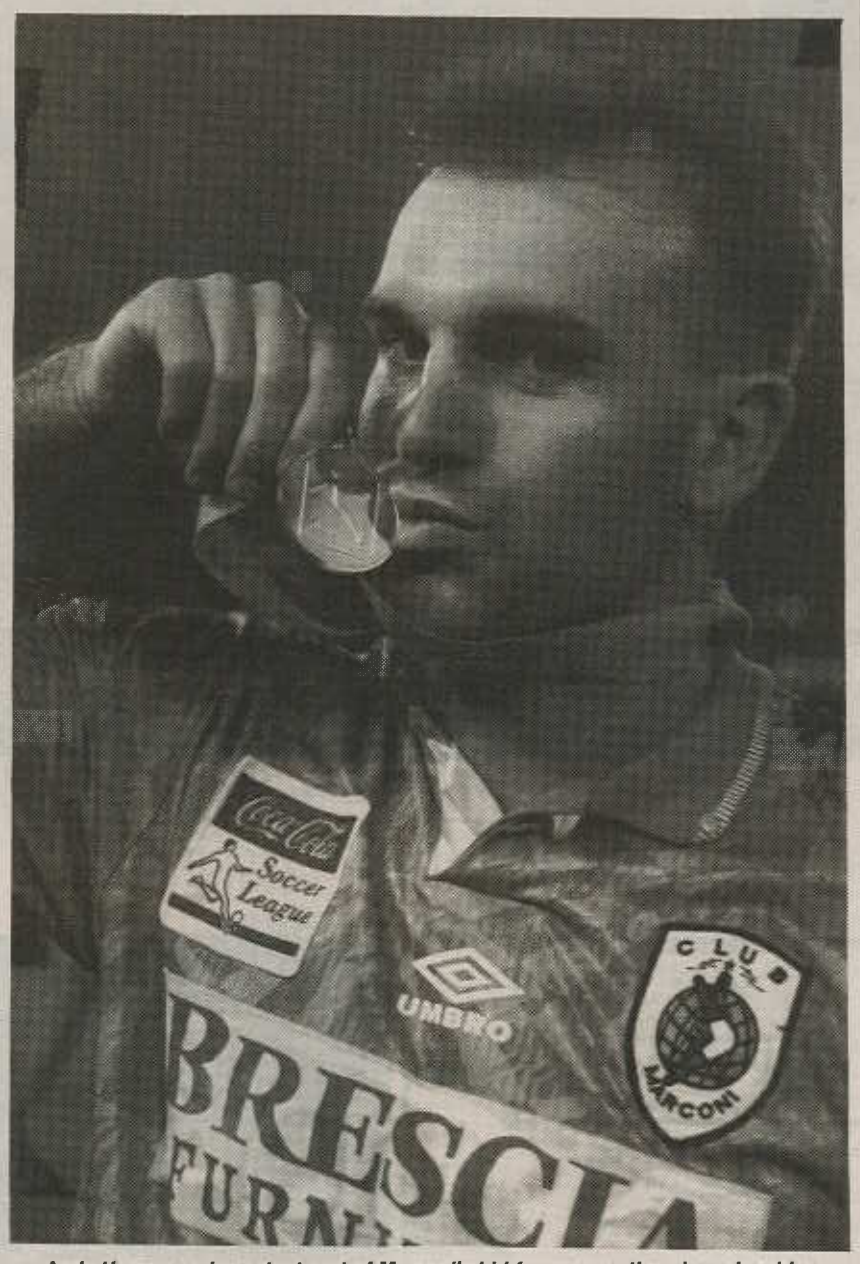
Frank Arok

It doesn't matter where they finish in the Top Six, they can still win the league. The key players are Steve Corica, Ian Gray and Kimon Taliadoros.

Corica can make or break Marconi. He is the most exciting player in Australia by a long shot.In two minutes he can turn a game.

Gray is so forceful in the midfield it's not funny. The problem with him is that he is always carrying injuries. If not for injury, he would be a regular for the Socceroos.

Taliadoros is such a hard worker that once he gets on a run nobody can stop him. I think he'll start scoring regularly now. The football Marconi play is modern, exciting and skilful. You are not sure what they are going to do next. That's where Corica comes in. Give him the ball and anything can happen."


Andy Harper: an important part of Marconi's bid for consecutive championships.

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Henderson says:

"South Melbourne is a very good, young side which plays wonderful, one touch football — a legacy from the days when they were coached by Ferenc Puskas. Paul Wade and Paul Trimboli are the keys. If those two players stay fit, South Melbourne will do well. Wade is a fantastic leader. And then of course there is Francis Awaritefe. As long as he can control his ego and tempo he will score a lot of goals.

Awaritere thinks that because he is scoring goals, people shouldn't touch him on the field. He has to accept he is a marked man, and the sooner he does that the better for the team. South Melbourne has no weakness for any other club to exploit. Maybe they are a bit lacking at the back, but they have a lot of experience in the right spots. Paul Wade's experience will always carry him through. His influence on the team is unbelievable."

ADELAIDE CITY

Henderson says:

"Adelaide is a team with a lot of experience. There is no doubt they will make the Top Six, but I don't think they will advance further than that. Their top players like Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic look a bit jaded. The team is trying hard but they don't seem to have that spark.

Milan Ivanovic

But they still play good one-touch soccer. Coach Zoran Matic has been buying players, looking to inject attacking flair into the team. Damian Mori is doing alright, but Michael Reda needs more time to settle in. The season is a bit too long for some of their Socceroos. Carl Veart, Joe Mullen, Tobin and Steve Maxwell will all have to fire for Adelaide towards the end of the season. But the key player for me is Tony Vidmar. He could ignite Adelaide. He's having a lean patch at the moment, and the disappointment of the World Cup will take a lot of time to get over. Tony is a great player, and I rate him highly. Tony has got the potential to be a wonderful player. There's still time for him to go overseas."

Zoran Matic

SYDNEY UNITED

Henderson says:

"I hope Sydney United stay in the Top Six. Their new board of directors is a refreshing change. The team has a good blend of youth and experience, and I think they are a good side. I have been very impressed with them. But what they have to take into account is that they have so many young players that they will cop hidings every now and then like they did against the Knights.

Zeljko Kalac is a key player. All he has to do is curb his temper. Mark Babic and Tony Popovic are also vital because they're big and strong and very forceful. It is important these young players mature quickly. If the team stays together, then next year will definitely be their year, if it doesn't happen this season.

A fit Manis Lamond can do anything on the field. It just depends how he feels. Sydney United plays off-the-cuff soccer — a little bit like Marconi, but not as disciplined. The players are given a fairly free reign by coach Manfred Schaefer. I would like to see them do well."

Manfred Schaefer

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Henderson says:

"Olympic can do well if they don't shoot themselves in the foot by sacking Berti Mariani. The team should prosper if key players like Tony Spyriadakos, Andrew Bernal and Robert Ironside stay fit. Berti can't afford to be without all those players at the same time.

Mike Gibson is a very, very good goalkeeper and a steadying influence on the team. He will give Olympic excellent service for many years to come. Spryiadakos' experience at the back is important. Branko Milosevic is such an influential player in the midfield, he can turn a game. He needs to stay fit.

Berti preaches good soccer. He has two mobile strikers, he likes to get his full backs down the line and the midfield players in good shooting positions.

It is important for Australian soccer that Olympic and Berti Mariani are successful. Olympic are my dark horse. Apart from that hiding at Marconi, they have picked up points in most of their matches. Olympic look like experiencing their problems now, which means they could peak at the end of the season."

CCSL MATCH PREVIEWS

ALL PREVIEWS COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

ADELAIDE CITY V SOUTH MELBOURNE

AT HINDMARSH STADIUM

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20

	POY
1 ROBERT ZABICA Goalkeeper	3
4 MILAN IVANOVIC Defender	13
2 DANIEL SABATINO Defender	0
17 JOEL MARINO Defender	0
14 PAUL SHILLABEER Defender	2
5 ALEXANDER TOBIN Defender	5
3 TONY VIDMAR Defender	2
15 BRAD HASSELL Mlidfield	3
11 GORAN LOZANOVSKI Midfielder	10
12 SERGIO MELTA Midfielder	8
6 CARLO TALLADIRA Midfielder	0
9 MICHAEL REDA Midfielder	0
JOSEPH BARBARO Striker	0
10 STEPHEN MAXWELL Striker	0
7 DAMIAN MORI Striker	11
13 JOSEPH MULLEN Striker	2
8 CARL VEART Striker	3
16 **JAMIE CARRENO**	0
18 **RENATO MUSOLINO**	0
JAMIE PERIN	0

	POY
1 DEAN ANASTASIADIS Goalkeeper	0
STEVE WARDLE Goalkeeper	0
4 MEHMET DURAKOVIC Defender	7
2 KEVIN MUSCAT Defender	4
LEIGH TSOUMERKAS Defender	0
IKE ALAGIOZIDIS Midfielder	0
14 ANGIE GOUTZIOULIS Midfielder	6
3 GARY HASLER Midfielder	0
12 MIKE VALKANIS	5
STEVE PANOPOULOS Midfielder	0
5 JASON POLAK Midfielder	14
13 PHIL STUBBINS Midfielder	1
8 STEVE TASIOS Midfielder	16
6 PAUL WADE Midfielder	11
11 FRANCIS AWARITEFE Striker	0
10 CON BOUTSIANIS Striker	5
7 PETER TSOLAKIS Striker	0
9 PAUL TRIMBOLI Striker	6
16 JOHN VERIKAKIS Striker	0
15 ALEX KIRATZOGLOU	0

ABSW PREDICTS

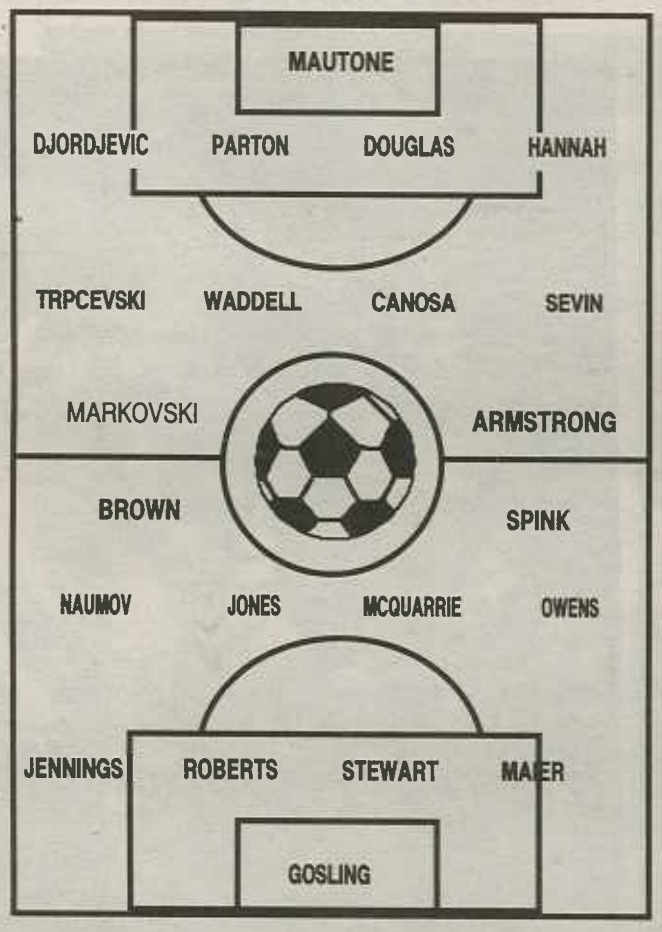
(62) Greg Blake: Draw
(57) Alistair Russell: Zebras
(58) Con Stavros: Draw
(51) Anthony Raineri: Draw
(63) Roger Sleeman: Draw
(55) Steve Copping: Draw

MORWELL FALCONS V NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

AT MORWELL FALCONS PARK

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20

	POY
1 STEVE MAUTONE Goalkeeper	11
4 STEVE DOUGLAS Defender	11
13 JOE GAGETTI Defender	2
5 SHAUN PARTON Defender	4
2 GARRY UPTON Defender	0
7 SONNY SEVIN Midfielder	6
12 ANTHONY CASSAR Midfielder	5
15 MARC STERGIOPOULOS Midfielder	2
14 VASKO TRPCEVSKI Midfielder	2
8 JOHN WADDELL Midfielder	0
11 LACHLAN ARMSTRONG Striker	0
9 BRIAN BOTHWELL Striker	3
3 CLAUDIO CANOSA Striker	3
10 JOHN MARKOVSKI Striker	9
6 PAUL DONNELLY	2



	POY
1 CLINT GOSLING Goalkeeper	2
6 GRAHAM JENNINGS Defender	2
2 RALPH MAIER Defender	1
5 MARK JONES Stopper	0
12 NEIL OWENS Sweeper	2
3 ANDREW ROBERTS Defender	0
4 DARREN STEWART Defender	3
7 BOB NAUMOV Midfielder	5
12 SCOTT WELLS Midfielder	0
14 HOWARD TREDINNIICK Midfielder	0
9 RODNEY BROWN Striker	2
11 DAVID LOWE Striker	2
8 JOHN McQUARRIE Striker	8
15 TROY HALPIN Striker	1
10 WARREN SPINK	13

ABSW PREDICTS

Greg Blake: Falcons
Alistair Russell: Falcons
Con Stavros: Falcons
Anthony Raineri: Falcons
Roger Sleeman: Falcons
Steve Copping: Draw

PARRAMATTA EAGLES V MELBOURNE PUMAS

AT MELITA STADIUM

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20

	POY
1 PETER GUNNING Goalkeeper	0
2 ADAM CIANTAR Defender	4
3 GLENN GWYNNE Defender	5
7 CRAIG MOFFITT Defender	2
NICK ORLIC Defender	1
17 TOM HAYTHORNWAITE Midfielder	3
18 LUPCO NAUMOVSKI Midfielder	3
5 JOHN KOCH Midfielder	6
14 JASON FALZON Midfielder	0
4 GERRY GOMEZ Midfielder	0
9 MARSHALL SOPER Striker	4
10 JOSEPH SPITERI Striker	10
12 GLENN SPROD Utility	0
19 BRENDAN RENAUD Striker	3
CYRILLE NGONGO-KELLER	0

	POY
1 JIM KOURTIS Goalkeeper	6
15 ROBERT TOMBOLATO Defender	6
5 PAUL DELLA ROCCA Defender	0
4 ROBERT FERLA Defender	1
STEPHEN MARLEY Defender	0
10 RINO MINICHIELLO Midfielder	0
ROSS ALOISI	1
8 ARCHIE McGEACHY Midfielder	3
12 SEB EMMANUELLE Midfielder	3
7 JONATHAN PILLEMER	2
9 SASHA BECVINOVSKI	3
13 ANTHONY BUDINI	0
6 RANSFORD BANINI	6
2 ALEX KUZMANOVIC	4
18 STEPHEN SMITH	0
11 ANDREW ZINNI	4
14 GEORGE KARKALETSIS	9
IBRIO CAHUT	0
CARLOS RETRE	0
19 PAUL DONNELLY	0
JOE TRICARIO	0

ABSW PREDICTS

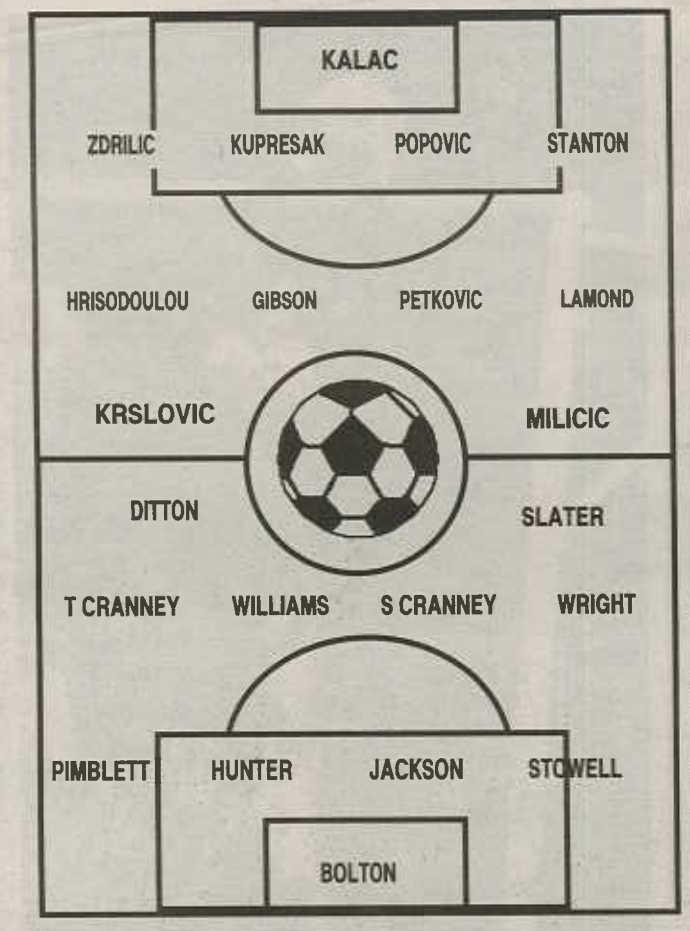
Greg Blake: Draw
Alistair Russell: Eagles
Con Stavros: Eagles
Anthony Raineri: Eagles
Roger Sleeman: Eagles
Steve Copping: Draw

SYDNEY UNITED V BRISBANE STRIKERS

AT SYDNEY CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20

	POY
20 TONY FRANKEN Goalkeeper	0
1 ZELJKO KALAC Goalkeeper	3
5 MARK BABIC Defender	0
3 VELIMIR KUPRESAK Defender	2
4 TONY POPOVIC Defender	11
2 ROBERT STANTON Defender	5
10 JOHN GIBSON Midfielder	2,
9 ERIC HRISTODOULOU Midfielder	0
6 TOM MILICEVIC Midfielder	0
12 ANTE MORIC Midfielder	2
13 KLAUS OKON Midfielder	1
7 IVAN PETKOVIC Midfielder	8
14 MARIO JERMEN Striker	0
8 TONY KRSLOVIC Striker	6
16 MANIS LAMOND	5
15 ANTE MILICIC	3
11 DAVID ZDRILIC	0



	POY
1 CLINT BOLTON Goalkeeper	0
3 ALUN EVANS Defender	1
18 STEIN GRODUM Defender	0
5 STEVEN JACKSON Sweeper	3
4 ALAN HUNTER Defender	15
8 ANDREW STOWELL Defender	2
14 SEAN CRANNEY Midfield	4
11 TROY CRANNEY Midfield	15
17 BRADLEY DITTON Midfield	0
16 KEVIN MEACOCK Midfielder	5
7 GARY PHILLIPS Midfielder	2
2 FRANK PIMBLETT Midfield	1
15 CRAIG WILLIAMS Midfield	0
10 DANIEL WRIGHT Midfielder	4
12 CHRIS SLATER Striker	2

ABSW PREDICTS

Greg Blake: Crows
Alistair Russell: Crows
Con Stavros: Crows
Anthony Raineri: Crows
Roger Sleeman: Crows
Steve Copping: Crows

MARCONI V WEST ADELAIDE

AT MARCONI STADIUM

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20

	POY
1 MARK SCHWARZER Goalkeeper	2
3 JP DE MARIGNY Defender	4
2 GEORGE JOLEVSKI Defender	5
14GARY VAN EGMOND Defender	0
4 MATTHEW BINGLEY Midfielder	14
10 STEVE CORICA Midfielder	24
5 IAN GRAY Midfielder	4
11 ANDREW HARPER Midfielder	0
6 BLAGOJA KULESKI Midfielder	1
15 TOMMY McCULLOCH Midfielder	0
NICK MEREDITH Midfielder	9
13 UFUK TALAY Midfielder	3
7 GLENN JOHNSON Striker	3
9 KIMON TALIADOROS Striker	1
19 DARREN IOCCA Utility	0

	POY
1 PETER BLAZINCIC Goalkeeper	0
5 ROBERT HOOKER Defender	8
17 GREG MILLS Defender	0
8 RICHIE ALAGICH Midfielder	1
13 MARK BRAZZALE Midfielder	0
10 GUSTAVO CERRO Midfielder	10
4 CON KOKKINOPOLITIS Midfielder	0
11 STAN LAZARIDIS Midfielder	7
6 GEORGE SLIFKAS Midfielder	7
12 RAYMOND BLAIR Striker	6
14 GREG BROWN Striker	5
16 JIM KERAMIDAS Striker	1
7 JIMMY TSEKINIS	0
2 LEMMY VATSILAS	0
3 GEORGE HANIOTIS	3
9 PABLO CARDOZO	4

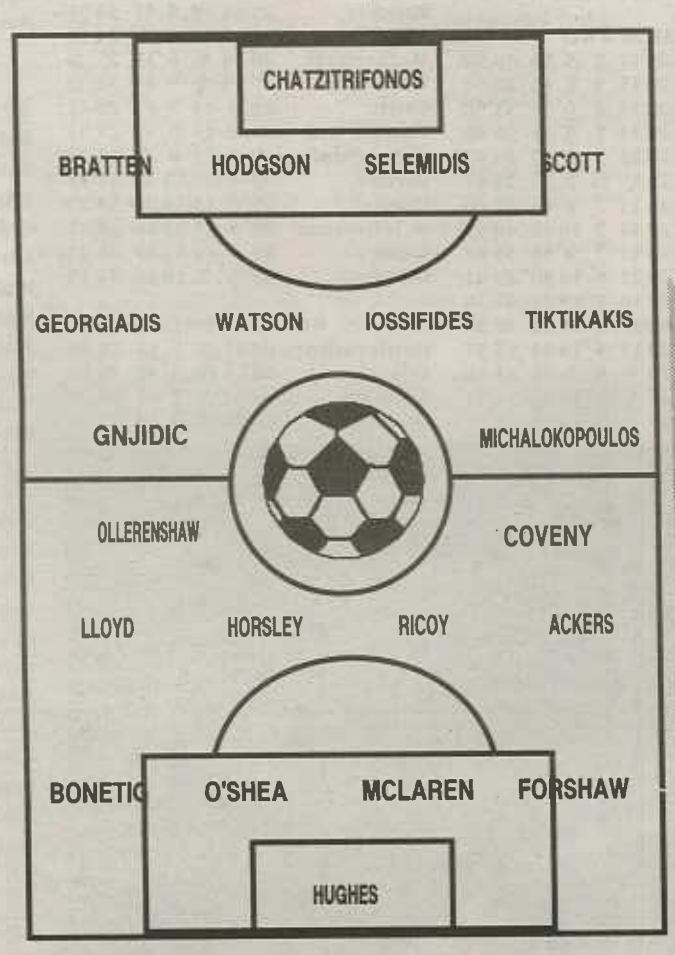
ABSW PREDICTS

Greg Blake: Marconi
Alistair Russell: Marconi
Con Stavros: Marconi
Anthony Raineri: Marconi
Roger Sleeman: Marconi
Steve Copping: Marconi

HEIDELBERG UNITED V WOLLONGONG CITY

AT OLYMPIC VILLAGE

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20



	POY
1 M CHATZITRIFONOS Goalkeeper	5
4 DOUG HODGSON Defender	1
3 ALAN SCOTT Defender	0
2 GARY BRATTEN Midfielder	0
7 BRIAN MACNICOL Midfielder	6
12 THEO SELEMIDIS Defender	0
RICHARD WATSON	0
13 PETER TIKTIKAKIS Midfielder	1
9 DANNY GNJIDIC Striker	0
10 M MICHALAKOPOULOS Striker	2
5 JOE PALATSIDES Striker	0
15 ANDREW VLAHOS Striker	0
14 GEORGE GEORGIADIS Utility	2
6 GORAN NEGIC Midfielder	3
16 MICHAEL PANOPOULOS	0
17 TOM KARAPATSOS	0
20 CON KARANIKOLOS Goalkeeper	0
5 STEVE IOSFIDES	1
18 **LEE TSOUMERKAS**	0
19 RICHARD WATSON	3

	POY
1 BRETT HUGHES Goalkeeper	8
SHAUN FREESTONE	2
14 STEPHEN KRISHNA Midfielder	0
2 **MIKE GRBEVSKI** Defender	0
18 STEVEN FORSHAW Defender	2
7 PAUL MCFADDEN Midfielder	0
3 MICHAEL O'SHEA Defender	4
4 CHARLIE YANKOS Defender	5
ANTHONY SURJAN Midfield	5
5 MARTIN BOURKE Midfield	1
6 MATTHEW HORSLEY Midfield	3
10 RICHARD LLOYD Midfield	2
17 PEDRO RICOY Midfield	3
MARTIN ACKERS Midfield	0
8 SASHO DIMOSKI Striker	0
11 SCOTT OLLERENSHAW Striker	6
9 DALE WHITE Striker	0
12 VAUGHAN COVENY Striker	4
19 ANTE ZIZIC	0
16 STUART McLAREN	1
MINEO BONETIG	3

ABSW PREDICTS

Greg Blake: Draw
Alistair Russell: Draw
Con Stavros: Draw
Anthony Raineri: Draw
Roger Sleeman: Wolves
Steve Copping: Draw

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V SYDNEY OLYMPIC

AT MELB CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE

LIKELY LINE-UPS – ROUND 20

	POY
20 FRANK JURIC Goalkeeper	0
1 DAVID MILLER Goalkeeper	3
3 FAUSTO DE AMICIS Defender	6
6 ANDREW MARTH Defender	14
5 VLADO VANIS Defender	0
18 JOSIP BISKIC Midfielder	19
11 VINKO BULJUBASIC Midfielder	0
12 STEVE HORVAT Midfielder	2
14 KRUNOSLAV RAZOV Midfielder	0
2 MARK TALAJIC Midfielder	0
7 ZORAN TRAJCEVSKI Midfielder	4
8 DAMIAN VOJTEK Midfielder	1
13 ADRIAN CERVINSKI Striker	2
19 OLIVER PONDELJAK Striker	3
9 MARK VIDUKA Striker	16
10 MARK SILIC Striker	5
4 DAVID CERVINSKI	0
15 ZORAN MARKOVSKI	0
16 ANTE JURIC	0

	POY
1 MICHAEL GIBSON Goalkeeper	4
20 GARY MEIER Goalkeeper	0
ANDREW BERNAL Defender	1
3 ELIAS AUGERINOS Defender	4
2 DAVID BARRETT Defender	10
14 JOSE MENDES Defender	0
BRAD MALONEY Midfielder	0
5 GEORGE SORRAS Defender	2
13 TONY SPYRIDAKOS Defender	0
4 ROBERT IRONSIDE Midfielder	0
6 ANGELO PETRATOS Midfielder	0
8 BRANKO MILOSEVIC Midfielder	7
12 PETER TSEKENIS Midfielder	1
7 JOE CALETA Striker	5
10 KRIS TRAJANOVSKI Striker	8
DEREK POIMER	0
AYTEK GENC Midfielder	0
9 IVAN KELIC Striker	6
NORMAN TOME Utility	4

ABSW PREDICTS

Greg Blake: Knights
Alistair Russell: Draw
Con Stavros: Knights
Anthony Raineri: Knights
Roger Sleeman: Knights
Steve Copping: Knights

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

SPANISH CUP

— February 1 —

Real Madrid.....0 Tenerife.....3

(Tenerife win 5-1 on aggregate)

SCOTLAND

— February 1 —

Division One

Airdrieonians..2 Morton 2

Division Two

Berwick .....1 Alloa.....1

Cowdenbeath...1 Stenhous.....3

ENGLAND

— February 1 —

Division One

Crystal Palace..3 Peterborough .2

Grimsby.....2 West Brom 2

Division Two

Stockport .....1 Blackpool.....0

Division Three

Chester .....1 Lincoln 1

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

Bangu .....1 Flamengo 1

ENGLAND

FA CUP (Fourth Round replay)

Bolton.....2 Arsenal 2

(replay tomorrow night at Highbury)

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

OAKLAND, California, Feb 2

Reuter — Russia beat Mexico 4-1 (halftime 3-1) in a friendly soccer international

Scorers:

Russia - Alexander Borodiuk (fourth minute, 45th, 56th), Dmitri Radchenko (37th)

Mexico - Alberto Garcia Aspe (25th)

Attendance: 18,162

SPAIN

MADRID, Feb 2

Results of Spanish Cup quarter-final second leg matches played today (with aggregate scores in brackets):

Celta 5 Real Oviedo 0 (5-1)

Sevilla 1 Real Zaragoza 1 (2-3)

SUPERCUP

MILAN, Feb 2 - Parma beat AC Milan 2-0 after extra time (halftime 0-0, score at 90 minutes 1-0) to win the European Super Cup 2-1 on aggregate

Scorers: Roberto Sensini (67th minute), Massimo Crippa (95th) Attendance: 24,000

ENGLAND

Feb 2 Reuter - Coventry beat Ipswich 1-0 (halftime 1-0)

Scorer: Sean Flynn (5th min)

Attendance: 11,265

SCOTLAND

Feb 2

Division one

Hamilton 0 Stirling 1

Division two

Arbroath 1 East Stirling 1

Stranraer 2 Forfar 0

DUTCH

Feb 2 Results of Dutch first division games played today:

Ajax Am.....3RKC Waal 0

Roda JC K ....1 NAC Breda..2

BRAZIL

Feb 3

Sao Paulo

Am/S.Jose .....0 Santo A 1

Ferro .....0 Bragan 0

Guarani.....4 Corinth 0

Nov.....3 Porto.....1

Palmeiras.....5 Ponte Preta... 0

Rio Branco .....2 Mogi Mirim ...1

Santos.....1 Ituano 1

Rio de Janeiro, first stage:

Fluminense ...0 Americano.....0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United	28	20	7	1	57	25	67
Blackburn	26	16	6	4	39	20	54
Arsenal	27	12	10	5	31	14	46
Newcastle	26	13	6	7	45	25	45
Liverpool	27	12	8	7	46	34	44
Sheffield Wed	28	11	10	7	52	37	43
Leeds	26	11	10	5	39	28	43
Aston Villa	26	11	8	7	31	27	41
Norwich	26	10	10	6	42	32	40
QPR	27	11	6	10	42	36	39
West Ham	27	9	8	10	25	35	35
Coventry	27	8	10	9	28	32	34
Wimbledon	26	8	9	9	27	36	33
Ipswich	27	7	11	9	23	30	32
Everton	28	9	4	15	32	40	31
Tottenham	28	7	9	12	36	37	30
Chelsea	26	6	8	12	25	34	26
Man City	26	5	9	12	23	33	24
Southampton	27	7	3	17	27	39	24
Oldham	27	5	8	14	22	46	23
Sheff United	27	4	10	13	22	42	22
Swindon	28	4	10	14	31	62	22

DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace	28	16	5	7	49	33	53
Charlton	28	14	6	8	35	26	48
Millwall	27	13	8	6	37	28	47
Leicester	27	13	7	7	47	32	46
Tranmere	29	13	6	10	39	35	45
Nott Forest	26	12	8	6	41	30	44
Derby	28	13	4	11	44	42	43
Wolverham	28	10	13	5	42	28	43
Stoke	28	12	7	9	38	40	43
Bolton	29	11	9	9	39	33	42
Bristol City	29	11	8	10	32	33	41
Southend	29	12	4	13	44	42	40
Portsmouth	28	9	11	8	31	34	38
Notts County	28	11	4	13	38	47	37
Sunderland	28	11	4	13	30	36	37
Luton	27	10	5	12	35	34	35
Middlesbrough	26	8	10	8	34	28	34
Grimsby	28	7	13	8	34	32	34
Watford	29	8	7	14	43	57	31
West Brom	29	7	9	13	41	47	30
Birmingham	29	7	8	14	29	43	29
Barnsley	28	7	7	14	34	45	28
Oxford	29	6	8	15	32	53	26
Peterborough	27	5	9	13	24	4	24

DIVISION TWO

Reading	29	17	7	5	56	30	58
Stockport	26	15	5	6	45	26	50
Bristol Rovers	28	14	8	6	39	31	50
Plymouth	26	14	7	5	51	35	49
Burnley	28	14	5	9	47	34	47
Brentford	29	12	11	6	37	25	47
Port Vale	26	13	7	6	44	27	46
Hull	29	12	7	10	42	40	43
Bradford	28	12	7	9	38	35	43
York	29	11	8	10	39	29	41
Leyton Orient	29	10	9	10	37	41	39
Cambridge Utd	29	10	8	11	41	43	38
Blackpool	30	11	4	15	44	53	37
Bournemouth	26	9	9	8	31	31	36
Huddersfield	27	8	9	10	29	34	33
Fulham	29	9	5	15	33	41	32
Swansea	26	8	8	10	29	35	32
Cardiff	25	7	10	8	41	41	31
Wrexham	26	8	7	11	41	47	31
Brighton	28	7	10	11	30	43	31
Rotherham	26	7	7	12	34	42	28
Exeter	25	6	7	12	32	47	25
Hartlepool	29	5	6	18	23	44	21
Barnet	27	2	7	18	25	54	13

DIVISION THREE

Crewe	26	16	6	4	54	34	54
Wycombe	26	13	8	5	45	35	47
Shrewsbury	25	13	7	5	40	28	46
Preston	25	12	7	6	55	40	43
Chester	26	12	7	7	41	28	43
Walsall	27	12	7	8	33	29	43
Torquay	27	10	11	6	43	39	41
Rochdale	25	11	7	7	43	25	40
Bury	27	11	5	11	39	38	38
Scunthorpe	26	9	9	8	38	26	36
Chesterfield	26	10	6	10	36	41	36
Colchester	26	10	5	11	42	49	35
Scarborough	27	10	5	12	32	37	35
Carlisle	27	8	9	10	33	29	33
Doncaster	28	9	6	13	28	40	33
Gillingham	26	8	8	10	31	35	32
Mansfield	28	8	8	12	31	42	32
Lincoln	25	8	7	10	36	42	31
Darlington	27	6	9	12	31	42	27
Wigan	26	6	7	13	34	48	25
Hereford	26	6	5	15	36	50	23
Northampton	26	3	7	16	24	48	16

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Rangers	29	14	10	5	51	30	38
Aberdeen	29	11	14	4	37	24	36
Motherwell	28	14	8	6	38	27	36
Hibernian	29	13	9	7	45	32	35
Celtic	29	9	13	7	33	26	31
Dundee Utd	29	8	15	6	31	27	31
Kilmarnock	29	8	13	8	23	28	29
Partick	29	8	10	11	32	41	26
Hearts	29	6	13	10	22	30	25
St Johnstone	28	5	13	10	24	35	23
Raith	29	4	13	12	29	48	21
Dundee	29	4	7	18	26	43	15

DIVISION ONE

Dunfermline	28	17	4	7	61	25	38
Falkirk	28	14	10	4	48	26	38
Airdrieonians	29	14	8	7	42	28	36
Hamilton	29	12	9	8	38	34	33
St Mirren	29	13	6	10	42	37	32
Clydebank	29	11	9	9	39	33	31
Ayr	29	10	9	10	30	35	29
Stirling	28	12	5	11	33	39	29
Dumbarton	29	9	8	12	37	39	26
Clyde	27	6	6	15	24	40	18
Morton	28	3	12	13	27	52	18
Brechin	29	5	4	20	20	53	14

DIVISION TWO

Stranraer	25	16	5	4	43	22	37
Alloa	25	10	10	5	29	23	30
Stenho	24	12	5	7	42	30	29
Meadowbank	25	10	9	6	41	33	29
Berwick	25	9	9	7	43	33	27
Q South	24	11	4	9	47	31	26
East Fife	25	10	6	9	41	36	26
Forfar	25	9	7	9	34	32	25
Arbroath	25	9	5	11	34	47	23
East Stirling	25	7	8	10	33	40	22
Queen's Park	25	8	6	11	32	50	22
Montrose	24	8	4	12	37	46	20
Cowdenbeath	24	5	5	14	30	44	15
Albion	25	4	7	14	26	45	15

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn .....3 Wimbledon 0

Everton.....4 Chelsea 2

Man City .....2 Ipswich.....1

Norwich.....2 Liverpool 2

Oldham.....2 Southampton..1

QPR.....2 ManUnited 3

Swindon .....3 Coventry.....1

Tottenham.....1 Shef Wed.....3

Aston Villa .....1 Leeds 0

DIVISION ONE

Birmingham....0 Peterborough .0

Bolton.....3 Watford 1

Bristol City .....2 Tranmere 0

Charlton .....0 Grimsby.....1

Crystal Palace..1 Derby 1

Luton .....3 Oxford.....0

Portsmouth .....0 Notts County ..0

Southend.....0 Barnsley.....3

Stoke .....1 Wolver.....1

West Brom .....2 Sunderland 1

Middlesbrough.4 Millwall.....2

Nott Forest .....4 Leicester 0

DIVISION TWO

Blackpool.....1 Exeter 0

Bournemouth ..1 Leyton Orient.1

Bradford .....2 Hartlepool.....1

Brenford .....1 York 1

Cambridge Utd 1 Barnet.....1

Cardiff.....5 Wrexham 1

Huddersfield ...1 Burnley.....1

Hull.....0 Swansea 1

Plymouth .....3 Bristol Rovers 3

Reading.....1 Port Vale.....2

Rotherham .....0 Brighton 1

Stockport .....2 Fulham 4

DIVISION THREE

Carlisle .....0 Northampton..1

Chester .....1 Mansfield.....1

Chesterfield ....2 Lincoln 2

Doncaster.....0 Shrewsbury 0

Gillingham.....1 Crewe 3

Hereford .....3 Bury 0

Rochdale .....2 Preston 1

Scarborough ....1 Walsall.....0

Scunthorpe.....1 Torquay 3

Wigan .....0 Colchester.....1

Wycombe .....p Darlington .....p

(Pools panel assessed result: Wycombe v Darlington home win)

HOMES LEAGUE

Atherstone .....1 Hastings.....1

Chelmsford .....3 Solihull.....1

Corby.....2 Burton 1

Dorchester .....1 Sittingbourne .3

Gloucester .....2 Hednesford 0

Gresley Rovers.1 Cheltenham....1

Halesowen.....3 Camb City.....0

Nuneaton .....1 Worcester.....1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee United 1 Dundee 1

Hibernian .....3 Aberdeen.....1

Kilmarnock.....0 St Johnstone...0

Motherwell.....1 Hearts.....1

Raith .....0 Celtic.....0

Rangers.....5 Partick.....1

DIVISION ONE

Brechin.....1 Ayr 4

Clyde .....0 Hamilton 2

Clydebank.....0 Morton 0

Falkirk 0 Airdrieonians.0

St Mirren .....0 Dumbarton.....3

Stirling.....1 Dunfermline ..0

DIVISON TWO

Berwick .....3 Cowdenbeath..2

East Fife.....0 Meadowbank ..2

East Stirling ....0 Q South 0

Montrose.....1 Forfar 1

Queen's Park ...2 Arbroath.....1

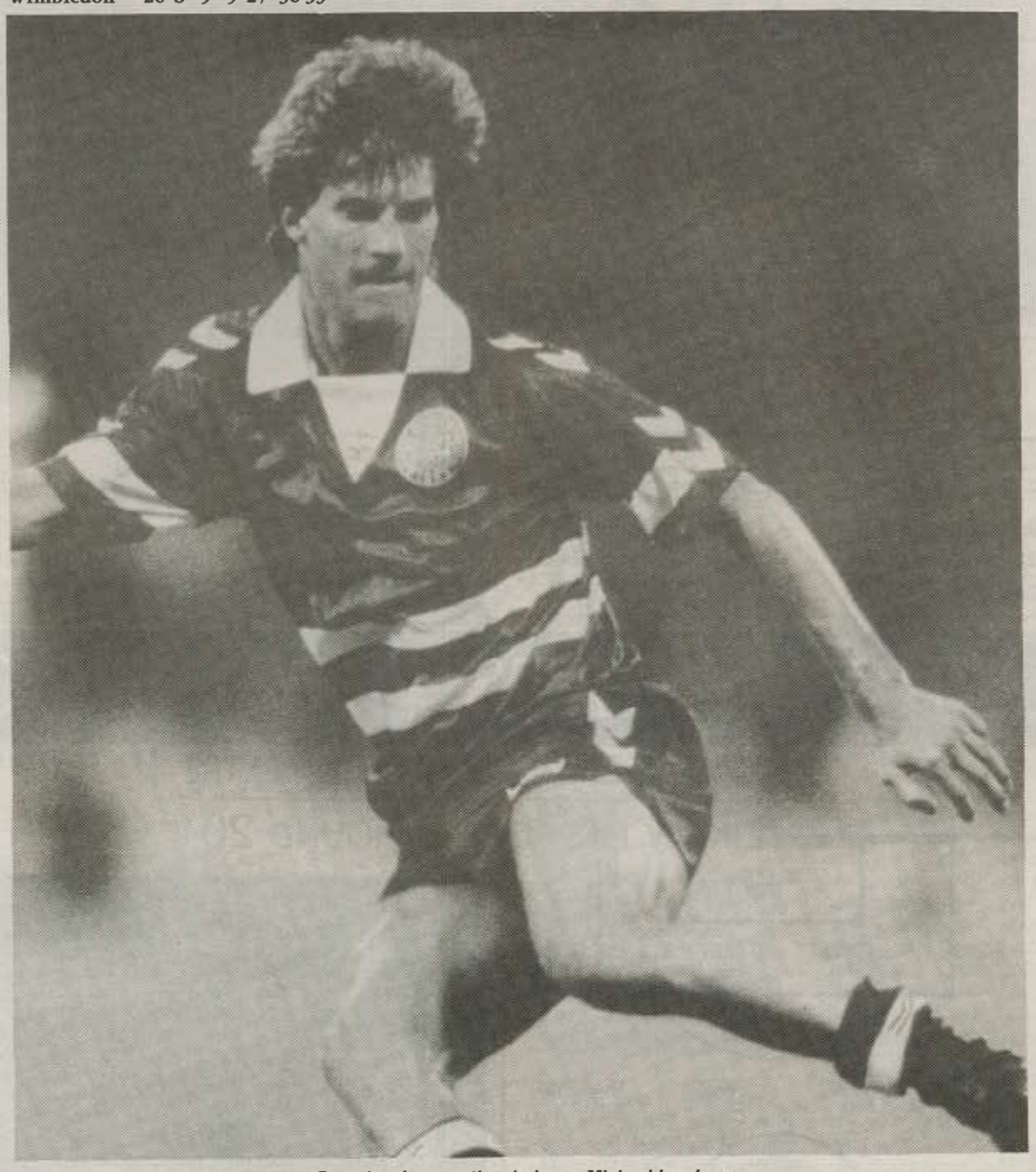
Stenhousemuir 5 Albion 1

Stranraer .....1 Alloa.....1

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Academica do Sal (Cape Verde) 0 AS Sonader (Mauritania) 0

(eventual winner plays Mouloudia d'Oran of Algeria in the first round).



Barcelona's sensational player: Michael Laudrup

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
— February 5 —

Real Madrid.....2 DepoCoruna ...0

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION
— February 5 —

Lierse.....1 Beveren 0
Standard Liege.0 Club Brugge....0
Charleroi .....0 Ekeren 0
Antwerp.....1 FC Liege.....1
Ghent .....2 Genk.....3
Anderlecht .....0 Molenbeek 0
Lommel.....3 Mechelen 0

FRANCE: RESULTS

Nantes 2 (Patrice Loko 40th, Nicolas Ouedec, 64th pen) Lille 0. Attendande: 9.000
Le Havre 0 Montpellier 0. 10.000
St Etienne 0 Marseille 0. 40.000
Cannes 3 (Franck Priou 31st and 56th, Michael Madar 75th) Caen 0. 2.000 Paris St Germain 3 (Vincent Guerin 16th, David Ginola 67th, Paul Le Guen 84th) Angers 0. 16.000
Lens 2 (Roger Boli 37th, Frederic Merieux 83rd) Metz 0. 7,000
Martigues 0 Lyon 1 (Marcel Kiremitdjan 74th) Attendance: 5.000
Auxerre 1 (Corentin Martins 84th) Sochaux 0. 8.000.

FRENCH TABLE

Paris St Ger	25	17	6	2	37	12	40
Marseille	25	14	7	4	35	20	35
Bordeaux	25	12	6	7	31	22	30
Auxerre	25	12	5	8	34	19	29
Montpellier	25	10	9	6	27	22	29
Nantes	25	9	10	6	28	18	28
Cannes	25	9	9	7	30	29	27
Lyon	25	11	5	9	24	25	27
St Etienne	25	7	11	7	23	20	25
Lens	25	7	11	7	23	21	25
Strasbourg	24	7	11	6	27	26	25
Monaco	24	8	8	8	35	27	24
Sochaux	25	6	11	8	24	21	23
Metz	25	6	9	10	20	25	21
Le Havre	25	4	13	8	18	25	21
Lille	25	5	10	10	24	33	20
Martigues	25	4	11	10	23	36	19
Caen	25	8	3	14	18	38	19
Toulouse	25	3	10	12	15	36	16
Angers	25	3	9	13	22	39	15

ITALIAN RESULTS

Cagliari 1 (Oliviera 16th minute) Foggia 1 (Sciacca 33rd). Attendance: 15,000
Cremonese 2 (Codispoti 69th own goal, Maspero 79th) Atalanta 0. 8,500.
Internazionale 1 (Sosa 25th) Lazio 2 (Signori 86th penalty, Di Matteo 90th). 43,000.
Lecce 1 (Russo 51st) Piacenza 1 (Brioschi 79th). 0-0. 6,400.
Napoli 1 (Di Canio 72nd penalty) Genoa 1 (Van't Schip 45th). 35,000.
Reggiana 0 Juventus 0. 14,000.
Sampdoria 6 (Platt 9th, Jugovic 18th penalty and 29th, Mancini 50th and 68th penalty, Amoruso 59th) Udinese 2 (Pizzi 52nd, Desideri 57th). 25,000.
Torino 1 (Francescoli 54th) Parma 2 (Apolloni 27th, Fortuna-to 53rd own goal). 25,000.
Roma 0 AC Milan 2

ITALY

Dutch star Ruud Gullit inspired Sampdoria to a fine 6-2 home win over lowly Udinese to move his team four points of Italian league leaders AC Milan.

High-scoring Sampdoria moved clear of a cautious Juventus, joint second before last Sunday's matches, after the Turin side dropped a point in a 0-0 draw away to struggling Reggiana.

Sampdoria have 30 points and Juventus 29, while reigning champions Milan are on 34.

Parma maintained their sparkling form with an exciting 2-1 away victory over Torino and moved into joint third spot with Juventus.

Just behind them, Lazio snatched a last minute winner against the inconsistent Internazionale after having trailed for much of the game in Milan's imposing San Siro stadium.

Inter's 2-1 loss could mean the sack for coach Osvaldo Bagnoli, with newspapers speculating before the game that only a convincing win could save the trainer who has spent heavily to little avail this season.

The 31-year-old Gullit, revitalised since his move from Milan, had a hand in Sampdoria's first three goals.

England captain David Platt scored the first after seven minutes when the Dutchman rose above the Udinese defence to head a cross down into Platt's path.

Vladimir Jugovic scored the second from a penalty 10 minutes later after Gullit had been brought down in the area, while a back-heel from the Dutchman set up the Serbian's second and Sampdoria's third in the 30th minute.

Italian international Roberto Mancini made it 4-0 five minutes after the break and although Fausto Pizzi and Stefano Desideri halved Sampdoria's lead with two goals in a five-minute spell, Udinese's hopes were quickly dashed.

Two minutes after Desideri's 57th minute strike made it 4-2, Lorenzo Amoruso put Sampdoria 5-2 ahead and Mancini completed the scoring with Sampdoria's sixth from the spot in the 68th minute.

In Milan, Inter had gone ahead against Lazio with a spectacular effort from stocky Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa, who volleyed home in the 26th minute.

With three minutes to go that was how the score remained, but Lazio, playing without suspended England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, scored twice in the closing minutes to win.

The first came after Croat striker Alen Boksic was brought down in the area and Lazio's top scorer Giuseppe Signori sent goalkeeper Walter Zenga the wrong way with his spot kick.

With the referee looking at his watch Fabrizio di Mauro made it 2-1 with a fiercely struck shot in injury time.

Juventus, who have only won once away from home this season, were lucky to escape with a goalless draw from lowly Reggiana.

The best chance fell to Reggiana striker Christian Lantignotti whose fiercely-struck shot skimmed the crossbar in the 64th minute.

ROMA 0 AC MILAN 2

AC Milan bounced back from a midweek defeat in the European Super Cup to tighten its grip on the Italian league championship with a determined 2-0 away win over AS Roma.

The reigning champion restored its lead to four points after Sampdoria had narrowed the gap for a few hours earlier with a crushing 6-2 home win over lowly Udinese.

Veteran Daniele Massaro put Milan ahead in the 11th minute after Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic shot against the post, leaving his fellow striker to slide the ball home.

Italian international leftback Paolo Maldini made the game safe for Milan when he scored from close range in the 77th minute after Roma goalkeeper Fabrizio Lorieri failed to hold a cross.

But if Milan, going for its third successive league title, showed its cup defeat had not damaged its confidence, Sampdoria issued a warning it was not giving up the chase.

Defender Gianluca Festa should have given Roma an early lead but he shot wide after just three minutes when Rossi could only parry a fierce shot from Alessio Scarchilli.

But then Savicevic picked up the ball in midfield, advanced 20 metres and unleashed a powerful left-footed drive that crashed against the right-hand post. Massaro had the easiest of tasks in slotting the ball beyond Lorieri's despairing dive.

Ruud Gullit: Inspired Sampdoria to a 6-2 victory

Although Roma remained dangerous, Milan always appeared in control until with the minutes ticking away Maldini put the result beyond dispute with his first goal of the season.

TABLE

AC Milan	22	13	8	1	23	8	34
Sampdoria	22	13	4	5	44	28	30
Parma	22	12	5	5	34	16	29
Juventus	22	10	9	3	35	19	29
Lazio	22	10	7	5	30	24	27
Inter	22	9	7	6	33	23	25
Napoli	22	8	8	6	33	25	24
Torino	22	8	7	7	28	23	23
Foggia	22	5	11	6	29	27	21
Cagliari	22	6	9	7	29	35	21
Cremonese	22	7	6	9	26	28	20
Roma	22	5	10	7	18	20	20
Piacenza	22	6	8	8	20	30	20
Reggiana	22	5	7	10	16	26	17
Genoa	22	4	9	9	15	28	17
Udinese	22	4	9	9	17	30	17
Atalanta	22	4	7	11	21	39	15
Lecce	22	1	5	16	16	38	7

GREEK FIRST DIVISION
— February 6 —

AEK .....2 PAOK.....0
Apollon.....2 Kalamaria 0
Doxa .....0 Olympiakos....1
Iraklis.....2 Athinaikos 0
Larissa .....1 Xanthi 1
Levadiakos .....1 OFI.....0
Naoussa.....0 Panahaiki 1
Panionios.....0 Aris 1
Panathinaikos .3 Edessaikos.....1

GREEK TABLE

AEK	23	17	3	3	45	17	54
Panathinaikos	23	15	3	5	54	27	48
Aris	23	13	6	4	38	21	45
Olympiakos	23	11	10	2	35	17	43
PAOK	23	10	8	5	32	21	38
Iraklis	23	9	7	7	40	30	34
Levadiakos	23	9	6	8	29	30	33
OFI	22	9	5	8	39	25	32
Xanthi	23	7	8	8	38	41	29
Doxa	22	8	5	9	25	36	29
Panionios	23	7	5	11	34	41	26
Apollon	23	6	8	10	20	29	26
Larissa	23	6	7	10	29	36	25
Edessaikos	23	7	4	12	31	43	25
Kalamaria	23	6	6	11	24	35	24
Athinaikos	23	5	6	12	19	36	21
Panahaiki	23	5	6	12	24	43	21
Naoussa	23	4	1	18	26	54	13

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Monaco 2 (Juergent Klinsmann 40th minute, 64th) Strasbourg 1 (Frank Farina 60th). Attendance: 3.500.

FRANCE

Paris St Germ	25	17	6	2	37	12	40
Marseille	25	14	7	4	35	20	35
Bordeaux	25	12	6	7	31	22	30
Auxerre	25	12	5	8	34	19	29
Montpellier	25	10	9	6	27	22	29
Nantes	25	10	10	6	28	18	28
Cannes	25	9	9	7	30	29	27
Lyon	25	11	5	9	24	25	27
Monaco	25	9	8	8	37	28	26
St Etienne	25	7	11	7	23	20	25
Lens	25	7	11	7	23	21	25
Strasbourg	25	7	11	9	28	28	25
Sochaux	25	6	11	8	24	25	23
Metz	25	6	9	10	20	25	21
Le Havre	25	4	13	8	18	25	21
Lille	25	5	10	10	24	33	20
Martigues	25	4	11	10	23	36	19
Caen	25	8	3	14	18	38	19
Toulouse	25	3	10	12	15	36	16
Angers	25	3	9	13	22	39	15

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Ostend .....1 Waregem.....1
Lierse.....1 Beveren 0
Standard Liege.0 Club Brugge....0
Charleroi .....0 Ekeren 0
Antwerp.....1 FC Liege.....1
Ghent .....2 Genk.....3
Anderlecht .....0 Molenbeek 0
Lommel.....3 Mechelen 0
Cercle Brugge ..1 Seraing 1

BELGIAN TABLE

Anderlecht	23	16	5	2	55	23	37
Club Brugge	23	13	9	1	34	15	35
Seraing	23	11	9	3	37	18	31
Charleroi	23	13	4	6	45	30	30
Antwerp	23	10	9	4	33	25	29
Standard Liege	23	9	7	7	27	16	25
Lommel	23	8	8	7	31	28	24
Mechelen	23	6	12	5	27	24	24
Ostend	23	6	12	5	32	31	24
Ekeren	23	7	7	9	29	31	21
Ghent	23	5	10	8	33	38	20
Beveren	23	5	9	9	25	29	19
FC Liege	23	5	9	9	26	40	19
Lierse	23	4	11	8	21	29	19
Cercle Brugge	23	5	8	10	34	47	18
Molenbeek	23	5	7	11	22	33	17
Waregem	23	3	6	14	21	45	12
Genk	23	2	6	15	26	56	10

DUTCH TABLE

Ajax Amster	20	17	2	2	58	15	36
F Rotterdam	19	13	5	1	40	14	31
PSV Eind	22	11	8	3	41	20	30
Vitesse Arn	20	13	2	5	46	18	28
Roda JC Kerk	19	10	3	6	30	22	23
NAC Breda	21	11	3	7	42	30	25
Willem II Tilb	20	9	4	7	34	23	22
FC Twente En	20	8	5	7	26	22	21
VVV Venlo	22	6	8	8	22	36	20
Sparta Rotter	20	6	7	7	29	30	19
GAE Deventer	21	8	3	10	30	34	19
MVV Maastri	20	6	6	8	27	36	18
SC Heerenveen	21	6	6	9	19	39	18
FC Utrecht	20	6	4	10	24	42	16
FC Groningen	21	5	4	12	26	48	14
FC Volendam	20	4	3	13	25	42	11
Cambuur Leeu	21	2	5	14	15	39	9
RKC Waalwijk	20	1	6	13	18	42	8

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION
— February 6 —

RKC Waalwijk 3 (Boogers 4th minute, Decheiver 65, Van Herpen 75) Sparta Rotterdam 1 (Berg 60 pen) Attendance 1,750 Vitesse Arnhem 1 (Gillhaus 20) MVV Maastricht 3 (Hofman 24, Scheepers 5, 75) Attendance 5,490 FC Utrecht 1 (de Kock 42 pen) Willem II 1 (Stewart 53) Halftime 1-0. Attendance 4,500
Roda JC Kerkrade 1 (Huiberts 75) SC Heerenveen 1 (Tammer 88) Attendance 4,000 FC Twente Enschede 2 (Polley 24, Van Halst 56) FC Volendam 0. Attendance 4,300.
Feyenoord Rotterdam 1 (Kiprich 27) NAC Breda 1 (Van Hooijdon 67) Attendance 31,000
PSV Eindhoven 4 (Numan 11, Lamptey 25, 49, Kieft 30) Ajax Amsterdam 1 (Overmars 89) Attendance 30,000.
Cambuur Leeuwarden 1 Go Ahead Eagles 0
Venlo 1 FC Groningen 3

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Rayo Vallecano 1 Lerida.....2
Logrones .....1 Tenerife.....2
Valencia.....2 Racing Santan 1
Celta.....3 Atletico Mad...2
Sporting Gijon.0 Real Oviedo....0
Sevilla.....3 Real Vallado ...3
Real Sociedad ..1 Osasuna 0
Albacete .....2 Real Zaragoza .1
Real Madrid.....2 Dep Coruna 0
Barcelona.....2 Athletic Bilba .0

SPAIN TABLE

Dep Coruna	22	13	6	3	29	9	32
Barcelona	22	12	4	6	43	24	28
Sporting Gijon	22	12	3	7	33	23	27
Real Madrid	22	11	5	6	31	24	27
Athletic Bilba	22	11	4	7	38	26	26
Albacete	22	7	10	5	31	28	24
Real Sociedad	22	9	6	7	27	29	24
Sevilla	22	7	9	6	29	22	23
Real Oviedo	22	7	9	6	24	26	23
Real Zaragoza	22	9	4	9	35	29	22
Racing Sant	22	8	6	8	21	20	22
Valencia	22	8	6	8	25	30	22
Tenerife	22	9	4	9	29	34	22
Atletico Mad	22	6	8	8	33	29	20
Celta	22	6	7	9	19	26	19
Logrones	22	5	8	9	27	33	18
Rayo Valle	22	7	4	11	29	41	18
Real Valla	22	4	8	10	17	31	16
Lerida	22	4	6	12	13	30	14
Osasuna	22	4	5	13	16	35	13

PORTUGAL FIRST DIVISION

Beira Mar .....0 Estoril 0
Famalicao.....1 Guimaraes.....1
Braga .....4 Gil Vicente.....0
Pacos Ferreira .1 Uniao Madeira 1
Setubal.....1 Estrela Am 1
Belenenses.....4 Farense 2
Maritimo.....1 Boavista 0
Benefica.....2 Porto 0
Salqueiros .....0 Sporting.....1

PORTUGAL FIRST DIVISION

Benfica	18	13	4	1	41	17	30
Sporting	18	12	3	3	28	13	27
Porto	18	9	6	3	27	12	24
Maritimo	18	8	5	5	25	21	21
Boavista	18	9	2	7	27	19	20
Estrela Amad	18	6	7	5	20	16	19
Guimaraes	18	7	5	6	15	13	19
Salgueiros	18	8	2	8	26	27	18
Gil Vicente	18	6	6	6	18	27	18
Belenenses	18	7	3	8	22	27	17
Pacos Ferreira	18	5	6	7	16	21	16
Farense	18	8	0	10	23	32	16
Braga	18	5	5	8	18	18	15
Setubal	18	6	3	9	29	25	15
Beira Mar	18	5	4	9	12	17	14
Famalicao	18	5	4	9	16	31	14
Uniao Madeira	18	4	4	10	18	29	12
Estoril	18	2	5	11	8	28	9

TURKEY FIRST DIVISION

Zeytinburnu ....0 Galatasaray.....2
Sariyer.....0 Kocaeli 0
Samsun .....5 Karabuk.....1
Karsiyaka.....1 Ankaragucu 2
Kayseri .....1 Gaziantep.....4
Bursaspor .....0 Trabzon 0
Genclerbirligi..0 Besiktas 1
Fenerbahce.....3 Altay.....2

LUXEMBOURG FIRST DIVISION

CS Petange .....4 Avenir Beggen 3
Fola Esch.....1 Aris Bonn 0
CS Grevenmr...3 Red Boys Dife.1
Spora Lux.....0 Jeunesse Esch .0
Union Lux.....3 F91 Dudelange 0

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'

THE POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST
WEEK 446
SAT. 12TH FEBRUARY, 1994

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	OLDHAM	CHELSEA	1	
	SHEFF. UTD.	COVENTRY	2	
	BARNSLEY	STOKE	3	
	DERBY	BOLTON	4	
	GRIMSBY	CRYSTAL P.	5	
	LEICESTER	LUTON	6	
	MILLWALL	BIRMINGHAM	7	
	OXFORD UTD.	CHARLTON	8	
	SUNDERLAND	BRISTOL C.	9	
	WATFORD	WEST BROM.	10	
	WOLVES	SOUTHEND	11	
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BARNET	PLYMOUTH	12	
	BRIGHTON	HULL	13	
	BRISTOL R.	BRENTFORD	14	
	BURNLEY	CARDIFF	15	
	EXETER	ROTHERHAM	16	
	FULHAM	BLACKPOOL	17	
	HARTLEPOOL	READING	18	
	LEYTON O.	BRADFORD C.	19	
	PORT VALE	STOCKPORT	20	
	SWANSEA	BOURNEMOUTH	21	
	WREXHAM	HUDDERSFIELD	22	
	YORK	CAMBRIDGE U.	23	
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BURY	CARLISLE	24	
	COLCHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	25	
	CREWE	SCUNTHORPE	26	
	DARLINGTON	HEREFORD	27	
	LINCOLN	WIGAN A.	28	
	MANSFIELD	WYCOMBE	29	
	NORTHAMPTON	SCARBORO	30	
	PRESTON	GILLINGAHM	31	
	SHREWSBURY	ROCHDALE	32	
	TORQUAY	DONCASTER	33	
	WALSALL	CHESTER	34	
*	ACCRINGTON	BUXTON	35	
+	AYLESBURY	HAYES	36	
	BASINGSTOKE	WIVENHOE T.	37	
	CARSHALTON	WOKINGHAM	38	
	RESERVE MATCHES			
+	YEADING	HENDON	39	
SCOTTISH PREMIER	ABERDEEN	RAITH	40	
	DUNDEE U.	MOTHERWELL	41	
	HEARTS	CELTIC	42	
	KILMARNOCK	PARTICK	43	
	RANGERS	HIBERNIAN	44	
SCOTTISH DIVISION 1	ST JOHNSTONE	DUNDEE	45	
	AIRDRIE	AYR	46	
	BRECHIN	FALKIRK	47	
	CLYDE	STIRLING A.	48	
	CLYDEBANK	ST MIRREN	49	
	DUNFERMLINE	DUMBARTON	50	
	MORTON	HAMILTON	51	
SCOTTISH DIV. 2	ALBION R.	BERWICK	52	
	ALLOA	STENH'MUIR	53	
	ARBROATH	STRANRAER	54	
	COWDENBEATH	QUEENS PARK	55	

* N.P.L. PREMIER DIVISION
\+ DIADORA LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 445
SAT. 5TH FEBRUARY, 1994

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	BIRMINGHAM	PETERBORO	1	0-0
	BOLTON	WATFORD	2	3-1
	BRISTOL C.	TRANMERE	3	2-0
	CHARLTON	GRIMSBY	4	0-1
	LUTON	OXFORD UTD.	5	3-0
	PORTSMOUTH	NOTTS C.	6	0-0
	SOUTHEND	BARNSLEY	7	0-3
	WEST BROM.	SUNDERLAND	8	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BLACKPOOL	EXETER	9	1-0
	BOURNEMOUTH	LEYTON O.	10	1-1
	BRADFORD C.	HARTLEPOOL	11	2-1
	BRENTFORD	YORK	12	1-1
	CAMBRIDGE U.	BARNET	13	1-1
	CARDIFF	WREXHAM	14	5-1
	HUDDERSFIELD	BURNLEY	15	1-1
	HULL	SWANSEA	16	0-1
	PLYMOUTH	BRISTOL R.	17	3-3
	READING	PORT VALE	18	1-2
	ROTHERHAM	BRIGHTON	19	0-1
	STOCKPORT	FULHAM	20	2-4
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	CARLISLE	NORTHAMPTON	21	0-1
	CHESTER	MANSFIELD	22	1-1
	CHESTERFIELD	LINCOLN	23	2-2
	DONCASTER	SHREWSBURY	24	0-0
	GILLINGHAM	CREWE	25	1-3
	HEREFORD	BURY	26	3-0
	ROCHDALE	PRESTON	27	2-1
	SCARBORO	WALSALL	28	1-0
	SCUNTHORPE	TORQUAY	29	1-3
	WIGAN A.	COLCHESTER	30	0-1
	WYCOMBE	DARLINGTON	31	pp
BEAZER HOMES LGE. PREMIER DIVISION	ATHERSTONE	HASTINGS T.	32	1-1
	CHELMSFORD	SOLIHULL	33	3-1
	CORBY	BURTON A.	34	2-1
	DORCHESTER	SITTINGBOURNE	35	1-3
	GLOUCESTER	HEDNESFORD	36	2-0
	GRESLEY	CHELTENHAM	37	1-1
	HALESOWEN	CAMBRIDGE C.	38	3-0

* BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

WEST HAM UNITED F.C.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT WEEK 5/2/94 WEEK 445

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED											NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED									
1 50	2 51	3 70	4 42	5 50	6 84	7 64	8 83	9 66	10 84		1 4	2 7	3 1	4 1	5 8	6 8	7 6	8 5	9 3	10 3
11 83	12 96	13 82	14 80	15 87	16 78	17 88	18 77	19 72	20 95		11 1	12 15	13 0	14 15	15 0	16 1	17 0	18 3	19 10	20 2
21 86	22 94	23 90	24 79	25 77	26 91	27 83	28 106	29 94	30 115		21 6	22 0	23 0	24 3	25 11	26 9	27 3	28 2	29 4	30 2
31 97	32 86	33 89	34 106	35 105	36 106	37 91	38 87				31 5	32 0	33 6	34 1	35 1	36 2	37 0	38 8		

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 445 SAT. FEBRUARY 5, 1994

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

15, 17, 22, 23, 32, 37.

Supplementary Number 13.

UK SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn	3	Wimbledon	0
Everton	4	Chelsea	2
Manchester City	2	Ipswich	1
Norwich	2	Liverpool	2
Oldham	2	Southampton	1
QPR	2	Manchester Utd	3
Swindon	3	Coventry	1
Tottenham	1	Sheffield Wed	3

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Birmingham	0	Peterborough	0
Bolton	3	Watford	1
Bristol City	2	Tranmere	0
Charlton	0	Grimsby	1
Crystal Palace	1	Derby	1
Luton	3	Oxford	0
Portsmouth	0	Notts County	0
Southend	0	Barnsley	3
Stoke	1	Wolverhampton	1
West Bromwich	2	Sunderland	1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool	1	Exeter	0
Bournemouth	1	Leyton Orient	1
Bradford	2	Hartlepool	1
Brentford	1	York	1
Cambridge Utd	1	Barnet	1
Cardiff	5	Wrexham	1
Huddersfield	1	Burnley	1
Hull	0	Swansea	1
Plymouth	3	Bristol Rovers	3
Reading	1	Port Vale	2
Rotherham	0	Brighton	1
Stockport	2	Fulham	4

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Carlisle	0	Northampton	1
Chester	1	Mansfield	1
Chesterfield	2	Lincoln	2
Doncaster	0	Shrewsbury	0
Gillingham	1	Crewe	3
Hereford	3	Bury	0
Rochdale	2	Preston	1
Scarborough	1	Walsall	0
Scunthorpe	1	Torquay	3
Wigan	0	Colchester	1
Wycombe	p	Darlington	p

HOMES LEAGUE

Atherstone	1	Hastings	1
Chelmsford	3	Solihull	1
Corby	2	Burton	1
Dorchester	1	Sittingbourne	3
Gloucester	2	Hednesford	0
Gresley Rovers	1	Cheltenham	1
Halesowen	3	Cambridge City	0
Nuneaton	1	Worcester	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Dundee United	1	Dundee	1
Hibernian	3	Aberdeen	1
Kilmarnock	0	St Johnstone	0
Motherwell	1	Hearts	1
Raith	0	Celtic	0
Rangers	5	Partick	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Brechin	1	Ayr	4
Clyde	0	Hamilton	2
Clydebank	0	Morton	0
Falkirk	0	Airdrieonians	0
St Mirren	0	Dumbarton	3
Stirling	1	Dunfermline	0

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick	3	Cowdenbeath	2
East Fife	0	Meadowbank	2
East Stirling	0	Queen of the Sth	0
Montrose	1	Forfar	1
Queen's Park	2	Arbroath	1
Stenhousemuir	5	Albion	1
Stranraer	1	Alloa	1

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Manchester Utd	28	20	7	1	57	25	67
Blackburn	28	16	6	4	39	20	54
Arsenal	27	12	10	5	31	14	46
Newcastle	26	13	6	7	45	25	45
Liverpool	27	12	8	7	46	34	44
Sheff Wed	28	11	10	7	52	37	43
Leeds	26	11	10	5	39	28	43
Norwich	26	10	10	6	42	32	40
QPR	27	11	6	10	42	36	39
Aston Villa	25	10	8	7	30	27	38
West Ham	27	9	8	10	25	36	35
Coventry	27	8	10	9	28	32	34
Wimbledon	26	8	9	9	27	36	33
Ipswich	27	7	11	9	23	30	32
Everton	28	9	4	15	32	40	31
Tottenham	28	7	9	12	36	37	30
Chelsea	26	6	8	12	25	34	26
Manchester City	26	5	9	12	23	33	24
Southampton	27	7	3	17	27	39	24
Oldham	27	5	8	14	22	46	23
Swindon	28	4	10	14	31	62	22

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace	28	16	5	7	49	33	53
Charlton	28	14	6	8	35	25	48
Millwall	27	13	6	8	37	28	47
Leicester	27	13	7	7	47	32	46
Tranmere	29	13	6	10	39	35	45
Nottingham F	26	12	8	6	41	30	44
Derby	28	13	4	11	44	42	43
Wolverhampton	28	10	13	5	42	28	43
Stoke	28	12	7	9	38	40	43
Bolton	29	11	9	9	39	33	42
Bristol City	29	11	8	10	32	33	41
Southend	29	12	4	13	44	42	40
Portsmouth	28	9	11	8	31	34	38
Notts County	28	11	4	13	38	47	37
Sunderland	28	11	4	13	30	38	37
Luton	27	10	5	12	35	34	35
Middlesbrough	26	8	10	8	34	28	34
Grimsby	28	7	13	8	34	32	34
Watford	29	8	7	14	43	57	31
West Bromwich	29	7	9	13	41	47	30
Birmingham	29	7	8	14	29	43	29
Barnsley	28	7	7	14	34	45	28
Oxford	29	6	8	15	32	53	26
Peterborough	27	5	9	13	24	34	24

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Reading	29	17	7	5	56	30	58
Stockport	28	15	5	8	45	26	50
Bristol Rovers	28	14	8	6	39	31	50
Plymouth	28	14	7	5	51	35	49
Burnley	29	14	5	9	47	34	47
Brentford	29	12	11	6	37	29	47
Port Vale	28	13	7	8	44	27	46
Hull	29	12	7	10	42	40	43
Bradford	28	12	7	9	38	35	43
York	29	11	8	10	39	29	41
Leyton Orient	29	10	9	10	37	41	39
Cambridge Utd	29	10	8	11	41	43	38
Blackpool	30	11	4	15	44	53	37
Bournemouth	28	9	9	8	31	31	36
Huddersfield	27	8	9	10	29	34	33
Fulham	29	9	5	15	33	41	32
Swansea	28	8	8	10	29	35	32
Cardiff	25	7	10	8	41	41	31
Wrexham	28	8	7	11	41	47	31
Brighton	28	7	10	11	30	43	31
Rotherham	28	7	7	12	34	42	28
Exeter	25	6	7	12	32	47	25
Hartlepool	29	5	6	18	23	44	21
Barnet	27	2	7	18	25	54	13

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Crewe	28	16	6	4	54	34	54
Wycombe	28	13	8	5	45	35	47
Shrewsbury	25	13	7	5	40	28	46
Preston	25	12	7	6	55	40	43
Chester	28	12	7	7	41	28	43
Walsall	27	12	7	8	33	29	43
Torquay	27	10	11	6	43	39	41
Rochdale	25	11	7	7	43	25	40
Bury	27	11	5	11	39	38	38
Scunthorpe	26	9	9	8	38	26	36
Chesterfield	26	10	6	10	36	41	36
Colchester	26	10	5	11	42	49	35
Scarborough	27	10	5	12	32	37	35
Carlisle	27	8	9	10	33	29	33
Doncaster	28	9	6	13	28	40	33
Gillingham	26	8	8	10	31	35	32
Mansfield	28	8	8	12	31	42	32
Lincoln	25	8	7	10	36	42	31
Darlington	27	6	9	12	31	42	27
Wigan	26	6	7	13	34	48	25
Hereford	26	6	5	15	38	50	23
Northampton	26	3	7	16	24	48	16

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Rangers	29	14	10	5	51	30	38
Aberdeen	29	11	14	4	37	24	36
Motherwell	28	14	8	6	38	27	36
Hibernian	28	13	9	7	40	32	35
Celtic	29	9	13	7	33	26	31
Dundee United	29	8	15	6	31	27	31
Kilmarnock	29	8	13	8	23	28	29
Partick	29	8	10	11	32	41	26
Hearts	29	6	13	10	22	30	25
St Johnstone	28	5	13	10	24	35	23
Raith	29	4	13	12	29	48	21
Dundee	29	4	7	18	26	43	15

SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

Dunfermline	28	17	4	7	61	25	38
Falkirk	28	14	10	4	48	26	38
Airdrie	29	14	8	7	42	28	36
Hamilton	29	12	9	8	38	34	33
St Mirren	29	13	6	10	42	37	32
Clydebank	29	11	9	9	38	33	31
Ayr	29	10	9	10	30	35	29
Stirling	28	12	5	11	33	39	29
Dumbarton	29	9	8	12	37	39	26
Clyde	27	6	6	15	24	40	18
Morton	28	3	12	13	27	52	18
Brechin	29	3	4	20	20	53	14

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

QPR 2
MAN UTD 3

An outstanding goal from Ryan Giggs highlighted Manchester United's 3-2 win at Queens Park Rangers, as the English champions stretched their unbeaten run to 30 league and cup matches.

Giggs's 59th minute goal showed just why he is so often compared with George Best, United's mercurial Irish genius of the 1960s.

Giggs whipped the ball off the toe of former England international Ray Wilkins, skipped over a heavy lunge from defender Darren Peacock, and then weaved through a back-pedalling defence, unbalancing last man David Bardsley.

His crisp, angled shot from 12 yards was a fitting finish to one of the great goals scored in the English Premier League this season.

United's win took them to 66 points from 28 matches, and kept them 13 points clear of second placed Blackburn, who thrashed Wimbledon 3-0.

Giggs was one of three "overseas" players who scored for United, with Ukranian Andrei Kanchelskis and Frenchman Eric Cantona also on target.

Giggs played for England as a schoolboy, but after his parents split up, chose to play as a senior international for his mother's country — Wales.

The victory was United's 11th away from home in 14 league matches and keeps them on course to beat the record of 16 away wins in one season set by Tottenham 33 years ago.

NORWICH 2
LIVERPOOL 2

Liverpool wasted their chance of catching third placed Arsenal and overtaking fourth-placed Newcastle — both without matches — when they were held to a 2-2 draw at Norwich.

Norwich, who led twice, ended the match with 10 men after goalkeeper Bryan Gunn was sent off.

SPURS 1
SHEFF WED 3

Sheffield Wednesday pulled level with sixth-placed Leeds when they won 3-1 at Tottenham.

The only silver lining on an otherwise bleak afternoon for Tottenham was that Israeli international Ronny Rosenthal, their new signing from Liverpool, scored on his debut in the 66th minute, although by then Spurs were already 3-0 down.

ROUND-UP

At the other end of the table, the bottom three clubs all picked up vital points with Manchester City beating Ipswich 2-1, Oldham beating Southampton 2-1.

With London sides Wimbledon, QPR and Tottenham all losing, Everton completed a miserable day for the capital when they ended Chelsea's eight match unbeaten run with a 4-2 win at Goodison Park.

The win was only Everton's third in 17 matches — but their second win in three league matches under new manager Mike Walker.

The bottom six clubs — Chelsea, Manchester City, Southampton, Oldham, Sheffield United and Swindon — are only seperated by four points, and the fight to avoid relegation looks a far tougher proposition than United's flight to the title.

MAN CITY 2
IPSWICH 1

Manchester City were at last doing some celebrating of their own too, winning only their fourth in 21 matches.

City came from behind to beat Ipswich 2-1 in front of a crowd of 28,000 at Maine Road.

BLACKBURN 3
WIMBLEDON 0

With a third of the season still to play, Blackburn are emerging as the only side who could prevent United from winning the championship for the second successive season.

And they wrapped up the points against Wimbledon, with all the goals in their 3-0 win coming before half-time.

Alan Shearer put Blackburn ahead from the penalty spot after only seven minutes for his 27th goal of the season.

Jason Wilcox and Stuart Ripley added the others before half-time and Blackburn stretched their unbeaten run to 12 matches.

Blackburn travel to Tottenham next week — Spurs have failed to win at home in the league for four months and went down again 3-1 to Sheffield Wednesday.

SWINDON 3
COVENTRY 1

It has been a bleak midwinter for Swindon as well, and although the club may not survive their first season in the Premier League, they clearly will not go down without a fight.

They beat Coventry 3-1 with a hat-trick from Fjortoft who had previously only scored two goals all season, and this second successive league win keeps Swindon in touch with the teams directly above them.

ASTON VILLA 1
LEEDS UTD 0

A superbly-taken goal by Andy Townsend after 70 minutes gave Aston Villa a 1-0 win over Leeds United in an uncompromising English Premier League match last Sunday.

Townsend beat the Leeds defence to a long, speculative upfield ball played into space by substitute Neil Cox and finished the move with a sweetly-struck shot from the outside of his left boot.

Leeds goalkeeper Mark Beeney managed to get a hand to the ball, but couldn't prevent it going under his body and into the net.

Just over 15 months ago when he was at Chelsea, Townsend scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 win over Leeds and it was his solitary strike again that deservedly brought Villa all three points.

Townsend, the Irish World Cup captain, deserved his goal after his nose had been bloodied by Jon Newsome's swinging elbow and his right arm heavily strapped after a clash with Brian Deane. Newsome was lucky not to be dismissed for the incident.

He also spared the blushes of Villa's strikers, particularly Dalian Atkinson, who had four clear-cut chances to score but missed them all.

It was Villa's first win over Leeds in nine meetings at Villa Park since 1978 and lifted Ron Atkinson's side up to eighth in the standings, two points and one place behind Leeds who would have gone fourth if they had won.

Manchester United, who won 3-2 at Queens Park Rangers on Saturday top the table with 67 points from their 28 matches, 13 clear of second-placed Blackburn, 3-0 winners over Wimbledon on Saturday.

Shearer brilliance: Blackburn's top marksman fired Rovers to victory

Goal on debut: Ronny Rosenthal scored for Spurs, but to no avail

PREMIER LEAGUE LEADING GOALSCORERS

30	Andy Cole (Newcastle)
27	Alan Shearer (Blackburn)
24	Ian Wright (Arsenal)
23	Mark Stein (Chelsea)
22	Sean McCarthy (Oldham)
20	Steve Sutton (Norwich)

DIVISION ONE

20	John McGinlay (Bolton)
19	Stan Collymore (Nottingham Forest)
18	Chris Armstrong (Crystal Palace)
15	Paul Furlong (Watford), Bob Taylor (West Bromwich), Owen Coyle (Bolton)
14	Steve Bull (Wolverhampton), Steve Claridge (Birmingham)

SCOTTISH LEADING GOALSCORERS

24	Mark Hateley (Rangers)
17	Duncan Shearer (Aberdeen)
14	Albert Craig (Partick)
12	Keith Wright (Hibernian)
11	Roddy Grant (Partick)
10	Craig Brewster (Dundee United), Dougie Arnott (Motherwell), Billy McKinlay (Dundee United)
9	Pat McGinlay (Celtic), Eoin Jess (Aberdeen), Kevin McAllister (Hibernian)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn 3 (Shearer 7th pen, Wilcox 30th, Ripley 39th) **Wimbledon 0.** Attendance: 16,215

Everton 4 (Ebbrell 5th, Rideout 26th, 39th, Angell 85th) **Chelsea 2** (Stein 24th, 86th pen) 3-1. 18,821

Manchester City 2 (Griffiths 32nd, Flitcroft 73rd) **Ipswich 1** (Marshall 16th) 28,188

Norwich 2 (Sutton 12th, 63rd) **Liverpool 2** (Culverhouse 53rd o.g, Barnes 76th) 19,746

Oldham 2 (McCarthy 33rd, Bernard 39th) **Southampton 1** (LeTissier 26th) 9,982

Queen's Park Rangers 2 (Wilson 44th pen, Ferdinand 65th) **Manchester United 3** (Kanchelskis 18th, Cantona 45th, Giggs 59th) 21,267

Swindon 3 (Fjortoft 8th, 35th pen, 79th pen) **Coventry 1** (Darby 53rd) 14,640

Tottenham 1 (Rosenthal 66th) **Sheffield Wendesday 3** (Coleman 17th, Bright 54th, 62nd) 23,078

World Cup '94

The American dream

The host nation faces a tough first-round test

USA's World Cup fate is likely to be known as the final whistle blows on their opening game against Switzerland.

A match which makes history as the first World Cup tie played indoors — at the Pontiac Silverdome — could also spell disaster for the squad assembled so painstakingly by coach Bora Milutinovic.

The former World Cup boss of Mexico and Costa Rica explains why.

"The opening game of any campaign or tournament is always important, but it is not necessarily the end of the world if you lose," says Bora.

"But this time, however, we must win. In such a strong group (Colombia and Romania complete the battle order) defeat at the start would be a total disaster." And a disaster not only for the American team, but for the World Cup as a whole.

Putting the World Cup on the map depends on Bora's men progressing beyond the first round — something they failed to do having qualified for the last finals in Italy in 1990.

Their coach knows a thing or two about guiding minnows through deep, shark-infested waters. He got Mexico to the quarter-finals in 1986 and steered Costa Rica to the second round in Italy.

The present task is even more immense, however. Not least because he has had to manage two entirely different teams.

On the one hand is the squad of 20-plus players based at the World Cup training centre of Mission Viejo in California; on the other are the dozen Americans who earn their living in Europe.

The Squad

The manager is Bora Milutinovic, a Yugoslav-born coach, who was appointed in October 1991. His squad is likely to be as follows:-

Player	Club	Age	Caps/ Goals
'Keepers			
Brad Friedel	National squad	22	16/0
Kasey Keller	Millwall	24	8/0
Tony Meola	National squad	24	75/0
Defenders			
Jeff Argos	National squad	25	32/2
Des Armstrong	National squad	29	72/0
Marcelo Balbao	National squad	26	75/8
Thomas Dooley	National squad	32	21/4
Alexel Lalas	National squad	23	28/4
Mike Lapper	National squad	23	29/0
Janusz Michalik	National squad	27	32/1
Midfield			
Mark Chung	National squad	23	21/2
John Chung	Derby County	26	52/4
Chris Henderson	National squad	23	58/2
Cobi Jones	National squad	23	32/3
Dominic Kinnear	National squad	26	46/9
Joe-Max Moore	National squad	22	23/8
Bruce Murray	Millwall	27	93/21
Tab Ramos	Real Betis (Spain)	27	50/3
Forwards			
Ernie Stewart	Willem II (Holland)	24	13/2
Peter Vernes	National squad	27	67/11
Roy Wegerle	Coventry	29	14/1
Eric Wynalda	Saarbrucken (Ger)	24	50/14

Expectations: Coventry's Roy Wegerle must perform up front for the USA.

Lineker: Taylor blew it!

Parting shots: Gary Lineker.

Fallen boss Graham Taylor dropped some almighty clangers during his disastrous reign as England manager.

But one of the biggest foul-ups of all was the cruel international exile Taylor imposed on two of England's most precious talents.

That's the damning view of former skipper and goalscoring idol Gary Lineker, whose own international career was brought to an inglorious end by Taylor.

But don't accuse Lineker of sour grapes as he claims blinkered Taylor sold the national team short.

In one of his most forthright interviews Lineker said he was amazed by Taylor's refusal to recall Peter Beardsley and Chris Waddle to the international scene.

Lineker believes that the two Geordie gems could have saved Taylor from the chop — and England from World Cup embarrassment.

"You cannot afford to ignore players of their calibre," blasts Gary. "They have been two of the best players in the English League. I couldn't understand why they were overlooked.

"You need players with their class to open up defences at international level and that is one of the areas where we fell down. It wasn't as if Taylor had that many other players to take their place."

Lineker decided to call it a day before the start of the World Cup qualifying campaign — and he has never regretted that decision.

"The way things went under Taylor made me think more than ever that I had made the right move. The way the team was playing wouldn't have suited me — and I doubt whether I would have been selected anyway."

With Taylor now national history, Gary has no doubts about the man capable of leading England back to the promised land.

"Terry Venables is the right choice," he says. "He is the best coach I have ever worked with and, because of his experience abroad, has all the right credentials."

ENGLAND

Disaster: Graham Taylor

THE WORLD'S MOST-WATCHED SPORTS EVENTS

	YEAR	NO. OF COUNTRIES	ESTIMATED TV VIEWERS (MILLIONS)
Soccer, World Cup Final	1990	167	1,060
Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony	1992	193	720
Soccer, World Cup Final	1986	166	652
Soccer, European Champions' Cup	1991	117	526
Soccer, European Champions' Cup	1992	109	523
Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony	1988	1960	450
Soccer, World Cup Draw Ceremony	1993	80	450-600*
Soccer, European Championships	1992	173	447
Middleweight Boxing Title, Hagler v Leonard	1987	N.A.	425
Heavyweight Boxing Title,Tyson v Douglas	1990	N.A.	390
Soccer, European Championships	1988	119	381
Soccer, European Cup Winners' Cup	1992	104	375
Soccer, World Cup Draw Ceremony	1989	53	320
Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony	1992	86	315
Wimbledon Mens's Tennis Final	1992	78	280
Welterweight Boxing Title, Cheavrez v Whitaker	1993	N.A.	275
Winter Olympic Opening Ceremony	1988	60	270
NFL Super Bowl	1993	611	253

*** Projected N.A. Not available**

Source: JSL: Marketing: London: Boxing Illustrated magazine

Germany's quest

Germany's aim is to be the only country to win the World Cup four times. Can veteran Lothar Matthaus lead his side into the history books?

Berti Vogts

Germany have got their sights set on a record-breaking fourth World Cup triumph.

The Germans, along with Italy and Brazil, have won the game's premier prize on three occasions.

Berti Vogts' side qualified as holders — after beating Argentina 1-0 in the 1990 Final — and that earns them the honour of playing the opening match of this summer's tournament against Bolivia.

And with Spain and South Korea completing Group C, the Germans should have no trouble at all reaching the second stage.

And there won't be too many people willing to bet against them once they get that far.

Germany have an outstanding World Cup pedigree and will quite rightly start among the favourites to lift the trophy in July.

With Lothar Matthaus as sweeper, Andy Moller and Thomas Hassler in midfield and Karlheinz Riedle and Thomas Doll up front, the Germans look more than a match for anyone.

But can they get that magic fourth title?

Germany's World Cup Record

1930	Did not enter
1934	Third place
1938	First Round
1950	Did not enter
1954	Winners
1958	Fourth
1962	Quarter-Finals
1966	Runners-up
1970	Third place
1974	Winners
1978	Second Round
1982	Runners-up
1986	Runners-up
1990	Winners

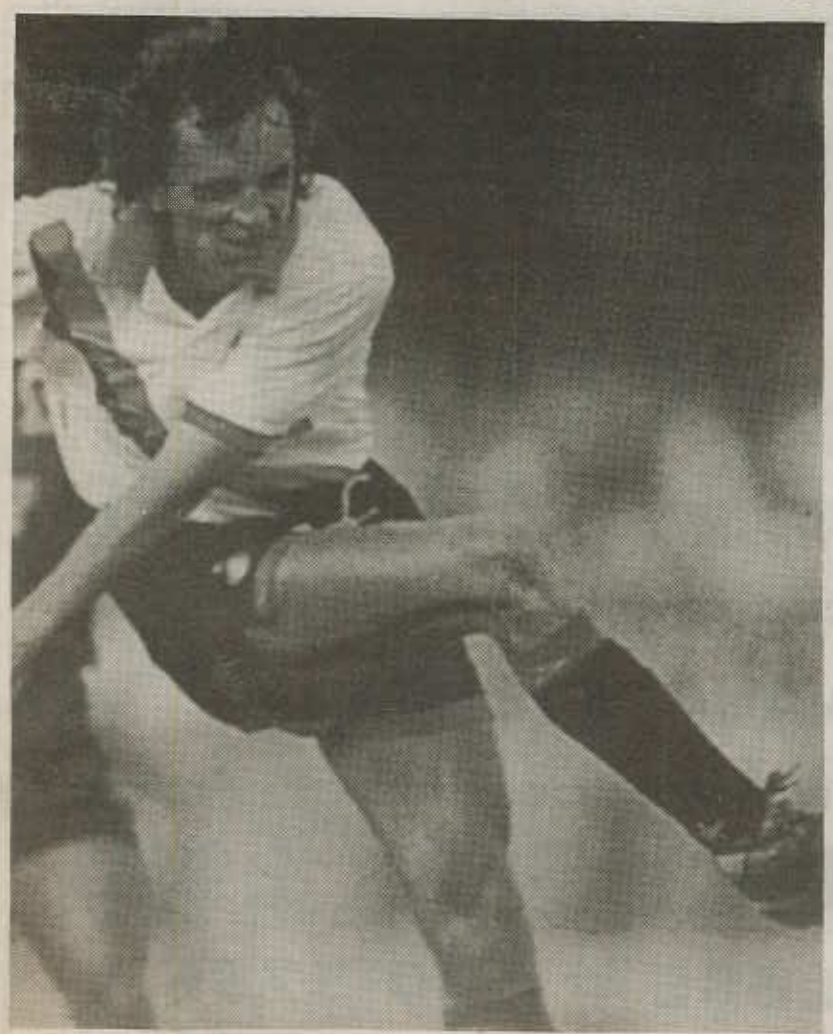
The likely German Squad

Their manager is Beti Vogts, who was assistant to Franz Beckenbauer when they won the Cup in 1990, and took over later that year.

Player	Club	Age	Caps/ Goals
'Keepers			
Bodo Illgner	Cologne	26	43/0
Andreas Kopke	Nuremberg	31	12/0
Defenders			
Manfred Binz	E. Frankfurt	28	14/1
Guido Buchwald	Stuttgart	33	68/4
Thomas Helmer	Bayern Munich	28	21/0
Jurgen Kohler	Juventus	28	57/0
Lothar Matthaus	Bayern Munich	32	108/18
Michael Schutz	B. Dortmund	32	8/0
Christian Worns	Bayer Leverkusen	21	4/0
Christian Ziege	Bayern Munich	21	5/0
Midfielders			
Stefan Effenberg	Fiorentina	25	24/5
Mauirizio Gaudino	E. Frankfurt	27	2/0
Thomas Hassler	Roma	27	42/8
Andreas Moller	Juventus	26	33/9
Matthias Sammer	B. Dortmund	26	16/1
Thomas Strunz	Stuttgart	25	3/0
Andreas Thom	Bayer Leverkusen	28	6/2
Forwards			
Thomas Doll	Lazio	27	17/1
Ulf Kirsten	Bayer Leverkusen	28	6/2
Jurgen Klinsmann	Monaco	29	53/18
Stefan Kuntz	Kaiserslautern	31	2/1
Karlheinz Riedle	B. Dortmund	28	36/15

Tough defender: Thomas Helmer

Russian mutiny on friendlies



Rebel: Inter Milan's Igor Shalimov is at the forefront of the revolt

MORE than half of Russia's international soccer squad have refused to fly to the United States for a series of friendlies. It is a bizarre mutiny that threatens the team's chances in the World Cup finals in June.

Many of the country's top players say they will not serve under national coach Pavel Sadyrin, installed in 1992 after the CIS's poor performances in the European Championships.

Twenty-six of the 45-strong squad failed to turn up for a meeting in Moscow this week and will not be flying to America for matches against the US and Mexico.

The rebels, many of whom play for foreign clubs, include team captain Igor Shalimov, of Inter Milan, Sergei Kiriakov, of Germany's Karlsruhe, and Andrei Kanchelskis, of Britain's Manchester United. Players from Russian champions, Spartak Moscow, are also refusing to go.

The row blew up two months ago after 14 leading players met in Athens and sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin's adviser on sport, demanding Sadyrin's replacement by ex-coach, Anatoly Byshovets.

The official reason was what they described as Sadyrin's incompetence. Shalimov complained that training sessions with the coach were boring. "It's the same thing, day after day, as if one opponent is no different from another," he said. However, Shalimov admits that money, too, is at stake.

The players are angry about an official team deal signed with Reebok, which cuts across lucrative private deals that many have made with rival sports manufacturers. "Sadyrin betrayed us," said Shalimov. "He knew we did not want to play in Reebok shoes."

Russian football authorities have warned that the rebels will have to fight for their places in the World Cup finals if they stay behind. Vyacheslav Koloskov, president of the Russian Football Union, said: "Sadyrin has been legally elected and only he will lead the team."

Sadyrin reportedly suggested that the problem was with clubs unwilling to release players for warm-up matches and that it would blow over by the finals.

But Viktor Onopko, of Spartak, vice-captain of the national team, said the only solution to the mutiny was to get rid of Sadyrin. "Russia must not be represented in America by a weakened national team," he said.

Holding back: Manchester United's Andrei Kanchelskis

YORATH TO SUE WELSH FA

"This was a humiliation beyond reason"

Precocious talent: Ryan Giggs will now have to be nurtured by Toshack

Rejected coach speaks out against the bureaucrats who made his life hell for months on end.

Former Welsh manager Terry Yorath said he would be taking action against the Football Association of Wales in a bid to win compensation for the loss of his job.

And he spoke of his "sadness and humiliation" at the way he was replaced as the Welsh team manager after steering his country to within one match of this summer's World Cup finals in the United States.

His contract officially ran out at the end of 1993, but he still hoped to be re-employed as manager even though the Welsh FA spoke to both Terry Venables and Bobby Robson about the job.

Then last week Wales announced the appointment of former Welsh international John Toshack, now manager of Real Sociedad in Spain, as part-time manager. Former Wales boss Mike Smith was named as Toshack's assistant.

In a statement issued by his solicitors, Yorath 43, said: "Whilst the last few months have been traumatic, throughout my time as manager no one can doubt my commitment, integrity and effort with regard to the Welsh cause.

"I am sad at a number of things. Sad at the fact that I have not been allowed to continue and build on the foundations that I have laid and see the job through.

"Sad that I have merely received a letter from the Welsh FA on Christmas Eve of all times, notifying me that my contract would not be renewed and thanking me for my efforts.

John Toshack: the new coach of Wales.

Sad: Terry Yorath

"No one can doubt my committment to the Welsh cause"

"I was then told that I had to re-apply for my own job. Whether calculated or not, this was a humiliation beyond reason.

"I have now been advised that I must take action to secure compensation for my loss of employment and that is what I will do."

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WORLD BRIEFS...

REAL NIGHTMARE

Real Madrid had three men sent off as it suffered a new humiliation in the Spanish Cup last week.

The once mighty Madrid was beaten 3-0 at home by Tenerife and went out of the quarter-finals 5-1 on aggregate.

Luis Milla was sent off after half an hour and striker Ivan Zamorano and defender Manuel Sanchis were shown red cards in an angry second period.

LISTED FANS

Soccer officials and Italy's transport minister agreed on measures to control fan violence on trains, following the death of a man who tried to escape hooligans two days earlier.

Teams will have to provide lists of recognised fan clubs to the Italian Soccer Federation (ISF), which will pass the lists on to the Transport Ministry.

Fans taking special trains to matches will be required to show a train ticket as well as a stadium ticket before boarding. Only approved clubs will be allowed to reserve the special trains, said ISF spokesman Stefano Balducci.

The train tickets will include an extra charge to fund an insurance policy to cover damage to the state railroad.

Much of the violence in Italy is associated with unruly skinheads, who often belong to organised clubs. The clubs are not sponsored by the teams, and the majority are peaceful.

A 22-year-old man jumped to his death from a train last Sunday while trying to escape from unruly fans rampaging through the cars after a minor league match in Sicily.

Italy's largest police union said 10,000 law enforcement officers are diverted each Sunday to provide security for matches and last week's meeting was planned before the recent incident.

UEFA CUP TO EXPAND

European soccer's governing body is planning to expand the UEFA Cup by including in the 1995-96 preliminary rounds four teams from a close-season competition.

UEFA said its club competitions committee would meet in Geneva on March 17 to discuss the qualifying standards for the four teams and how they were to be integrated into the preliminary rounds.

The four teams will come from the International Football Cup (IFC), a tournament staged in Europe during the close season essentially to enable pools competitions to operate.

Selected clubs are invited to take part in the IFC which is supported financially by Intertoto, a consortium of European pool promoters.

The IFC not only ensures pools competitions can operate during the summer months, but also is a lucrative source of revenue to the clubs taking part.

BOLTON GRAB REPLAY

Bolton Wanderers striker Owen Coyle scored four minutes from time to earn the First Division side a 2-2 draw against FA Cup holder Arsenal in their fourth round tie last Tuesday.

Bolton never gave up and Coyle earned a replay at Highbury when he slammed McGinley's header past Seaman. The eventual winners play Aston Villa in the fifth round.

MARSEILLE ACCUSED AGAIN

The once-proud image of Olympique Marseille, badly tarnished by last year's bribery scandal, is now in danger of being further harmed by the behaviour of its players on the field.

Monaco defender Luc Sonor accused Marseille of acting "like hooligans" after his side lost a recent match 2-1 while Monaco's respected coach Arsene Wenger blatantly called them "cheats".

Players from other clubs — plus a former Marseille player — have been highly critical of Marseille's attitude in recent matches.

Alain Roche, a former Marseille defender said: "The way they played against Monaco was not normal. Some players went beyond the limit."

For the past few seasons Marseille's reputation was built on an open, attacking brand of soccer that brought it five successive French League titles and victory in the European Cup Final last season. But last season's French championship was scrubbed from the record books and the club was banned from this season's European Cup as punishment for offering bribes to Valenciennes in a league match last May.

Now the attitude of its players is threatening to bring further disrepute on a club struggling to rebuild its reputation.

CANIGGIA'S BACK

Roma striker Claudio Caniggia will play his first game for 15 months in a tournament to be staged in Argentina in May.

The blond bombshell's ban for testing positive for drugs after a Serie A match last season ends on May 8 and the Argentinian international will line-up for the club in a four-cornered competition involving Italian rivals Napoli, and local sides River Plate and Independiente. Caniggia hopes to blow away the cobwebs of his 15-month exile in the tournament and use it to enhance his chances of being picked for Argentina's World Cup squad.

Backroom boy Evans vows to revive Liverpool

Roy Evans

Roy Evans, now Liverpool's new manager, who was appointed assistant manager by Graeme Souness only last year, said after his appointment: "It is with a great sense of pride that I say I've been lucky enough to be put in charge of this great club.

Robbie Fowler: represents the new-look Liverpool.

"Liverpool is simply the best club in the world and the fans look to the manager to provide the best for it. My aim is to restore the club to its rightful place.

"We are in a reasonable state — certainly not as bad as some people are saying.

"I will be my own man, my own personality, and although I've learned from people like Shankly and Paisley, it would be simply madness to try to emulate people like that.

"I've been privileged to work with some great people, though, and I have learned from all of them."

Liverpool chairman David Moores said: "Roy is a relatively young man, but he has given 30 years of loyal service as player and coach.

"He will do well for us and at the end of the season he will appoint a top-class coach to work under him and help him. The choice of that coach will be down to Roy."

Moores confirmed that Phil Boersma, who arrived with Souness nearly three years ago and took on physiotherapist duties as well as a coaching role, has now left the club.

He will be replaced, at least temporarily, by Alan Thompson, another former Liverpool player, but Moores added: "No further staff changes are anticipated at this time."

Evans, 45, a former England schoolboy international, has been at Anfield for almost 30 years after signing as a 17-year-old apprentice in 1965.

A former defender, he played only nine times for Liverpool in four seasons as a full professional before being advised by Bill Shankly, who was manager at the time, to concentrate on coaching.

It is the fourth time since Shankly retired in 1974 that Liverpool has taken its manager from its own backroom or playing staff.

Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Kenny Dalglish were all promoted from within the club, while Souness, who played for Liverpool between 1977 and 1983, was brought in as manager from outside after eight years away in 1991.

Evans's immediate task as manager will be to ensure Liverpool finish the season as strongly as possible, with an aim of securing a place in European competition next season.

The side is currently fifth in the Premier League, 21 points behind leaders Manchester United, and has been knocked out of both domestic cup competitions.

WORLD BRIEFS...

LE ROY'S BONUS

Claude Le Roy, the first Frenchman to coach Malaysia's national soccer team, has been promised handsome rewards if he steers the team into the next Olympics, officials said.

Le Roy, who is paid $7,000 monthly, will get a $28,000 bonus — a princely sum by local soccer standards — if he steers Malaysia to the second qualifying round of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, national team manager Tengku Abdullah Ahmad Shah said.

The 45-year-old coach, the force behind Cameroon's 1986 World Cup bid, will get $56,000 if Malaysia qualify for the Games proper, Abdullah said.

The Malaysians have qualified for two previous Olympic games — Munich 1972 and Moscow 1980. They failed at the first-round qualifying stages at their last three attempts.

NO SEMIS AT WEMBLEY

English soccer chief Graham Kelly said Wembley would not be picked as a venue for FA Cup semi-final matches this season.

The FA chief executive's remarks followed calls for the national stadium to be considered ahead of grounds such as Old Trafford and Elland Road after the success of last year's Wembley semi-finals.

Then, more than 150,000 fans flocked to the ground for a two-day double between London rivals Arsenal and Tottenham and Sheffield's United and Wednesday.

In a letter to all competing clubs, Kelly ruled Wembley would only be considered when there was no other venue suitable for safety and/or security reasons.

But he said when it was deemed "necessary to stage one semi-final at Wembley, consideration would also be given to the other tie being played there for reasons of fairness."

Last year the Sheffield clubs complained after being told they would have to play at Leeds while Spurs and Arsenal went to Wembley.

Wednesday won 2-1, watched by 75,364 fans. The following day Arsenal beat Tottenham, witnessed by 76,262.

Meanwhile, a recommendation is to be put to a meeting of the Challenge Cup committee calling for visiting clubs' supporters to be restricted to 15 per cent of tickets in earlier rounds instead of the present 25 per cent.

PARMA SNATCH SUPER CUP

Parma outplayed Italian rival AC Milan to snatch the European Super Cup 2-1 on aggregate in extra time in Milan.

Parma, the European Cup Winners' Cup holder, led 1-0 after 90 minutes, after a Roberto Sensini second-half strike cancelled out the first leg 1-0 win by the European Champions' Cup finalist.

Then Massimo Crippa blasted home four minutes into extra time, to earn Parma a 2-0 win on the night and overall victory.

SEATED?

Several English clubs will miss the deadline for meeting the Taylor Report's recommendations for all-seat stadiums. The report insisted that all stadiums in England's top two divisions should be all-seat by the start of the 1994-95 season.

SACCHI'S CLAIM

Italian national team manager Arrigo Sacchi is playing down his country's hopes of World Cup glory in the summer.

"I rate Holland, Germany, Argentina and Brazil as co-favourites," he says. "We have a lot of ground to make up on those teams.

"And Colombia and Norway could prove to be the surprise teams in the tournament."

SPURS STRIKE

Tottenham ended their hunt for a new striker when they revived the $600,000 transfer from Liverpool of Ronny Rosenthal, the 30-year-old Israeli international.

Spurs goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt has been ruled out for two months after exploratory surgery revealed knee ligament damage.

NIGERIA'S BONUS

Norwich will allow Efan Ekoku to press his claim for a World Cup place with Nigeria. But Crystal Palace striker Chris Armstrong looks set to ignore the Nigera call-up. Palace manager Alan Smith said: "Chris wants to play for England and I believe he's capable of achieving it."

WORLD BRIEFS...

ROBSON BACK TO PORTUGAL

Bobby Robson, the former England manager, has joined Porto, the Portuguese champions. Robson, 60, was dismissed by Sporting Lisbon in December.

ENGLAND V GERMANY

England will play Germany after all, following a change of venue from Hamburg to Berlin's Olympic Stadium. The match may yet be brought forward a day from April 20 to avoid the anniversary of Hilter's birth.

CLAY DIES

Ernie Clay, the former Fulham chairman, has died aged 76. Also, Tony Waddington, manager of Stoke City for 17 years, has died aged 69.

UNDER 16 SQUAD

Liverpool's David Thomson, Jamie Carrager and Jamie Cassidy have been selected in England's Under 16 squad for their international against Italy.

ENGLAND U16 SQUAD (v Italy, Walsall, Feb 2), R Wright (Ipswich), R Moore (Everton), M Millett (Wigan), R Wallwork (Man U), M Broomes (FA National School) D Hilton (FANS), N Quashie (QPR), D Thompson (Liverpool), J Curtis (FANS), S Clements (Tottenham), L Richardson (Oldham), J Cassidy (Liverpool), J Carrager (Liverpool), A Ducros (FANS), I Rankin (Arsenal), S Heath (Leeds).

COOPER BACK AT EXETER

Terry Cooper has been appointed manager of Second Division strugglers Exeter City for the second time. The former Leeds and England defender replaces Alan Ball, who took over from him at St James' Park in August 1991.

MARADONA'S SHOOTOUT

Argentina captain Diego Maradona, sacked by his club after just five games in four months, barricaded himself in his country home and fired an air gun at journalists outside, witnesses said.

Maradona was shown on television, crouching with two other people behind a car, rifle in hand and aiming at the camera.

"If you don't get out of here, we're going to start shooting real bullets," he shouted.

"You're all a bunch of shitheads. Next time you shout I'm really going to lose it."

Four reporters and photographers hit by pellets lodged charges against Maradona, police said.

At least five people inside the house at Moreno, about 35km west of Buenos Aires, were seen shooting air guns, a private news agency said.

Newell's Old Boys terminated Maradona's four-month-old contract last Tuesday after he repeatedly failed to show up for training.

Club president Walter Cattaneo said Maradona's physical injuries were surmountable.

"But when there are problems of psychological, and emotional depression, that's where the serious trouble starts," he added.

Maradona spoke on radio last week and denied talk of an imminent retirement from soccer.

"I am still as enthusiastic as ever. I want to play in the World Cup until I drop," he said.

"Although many people want to see me dead, they'll see that I'll get there and I'll be in great shape."

"First of all I will rest for 20 days and use that time to think...once I have assessed my physical condition I will get back to work with my personal trainer."

PRESSURE ON TAPIE TO QUIT

French football league chief Noel Le Graet made a fresh appeal last week for Olympique Marseille president Bernard Tapie to quit.

Tapie's club is still reeling from corruption allegations made against ex-general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes, who is said to have tried to bribe three Valenciennes players to throw a league game last season.

Le Graet, addressing a meeting of clubs which was snubbed by Marseille, said: "I condemn the methods used by Bernard Tapie.

Everyone in France loves the club, the players and the fans.

"But what we condemn is the attitudes of the club's leaders, who seem to be the guilty men.

"Mr Tapie has a lot of talent, but if some of his deputies have gone too far, he must draw the consequences."

Le Graet said UEFA and FIFA were closely watching the French federation's actions and that a decision on whether to further punish Marseille would be taken before the end of the season. His speech drew widespread applause from the meeting.

THE LATIN BEAT

WITH MARIO ETCHART

Brazil became the biggest exporter of soccer players in South America during 1993, with a total of 322 footballers.

According to the Brazilian Football Confederation, 110 players were contracted by Portuguese clubs, 30 went to Japan, 23 to Mexico, 18 to Saudi Arabia, 14 to Finland, 12 to Uruguay and Belgium, 11 to Argentina and Spain, 9 to Qatar, 7 to Germany, 6 to Greece and Peru, 5 to Venezuela and Bolivia, 4 to France, 3 to Switzerland, Honduras and Oman, 2 to Italy, Egypt, El Salvador and Hong Kong, and 1 to Austria, Canada, Chile, Hungary, Israel, Malta, Morocco and Poland.

Nacion of Montevideo won the Pre-Libertadores League and qualified for the 1994 Copa Libertadores, the major tournament at club level in South America.

Meanwhile, arch-rival and Uruguayan champion, Penarol, failed to qualify when the most popular club in the country lost 2-1 against Defensor Sporting in the play-off for a second berth in the South American championship.

The defeat caused Penarol's coach of last year, Gregorio Perez, to resign from the post.

Nacional, guided by the Argentine tactician Eduardo Lujan Manera, finished at the top of the table with 8 points, followed by Defensor with 7, Penarol 6, Danubio 5, Progreso 3 and Cerro 1.

Bolivian star striker Marco "Devil" Etcheverry was voted "Sportman of the Year" and "Player of the Year," in Bolivia, by the local press. Etcheverry was instrumental in Bolivia's World Cup campaign, qualifying in the South American Group B together with Brazil for USA '94.

The brilliant striker is playing for Chilean champion Colo Colo and was also recognised, last week, by the South American press as one of the best players in the continent.

Boca Junior's striker, Alberto Acosta denied a report indicating his transfer to Uruguayan club Penarol. The announcement was made by Francisco Paco Casal, manager of several Uruguayan players including Enzo Francescoli, Carlos Aguilera, Daniel Fonseca and Ruben Sosa. But Acosta said that he never had any contact with Casal and he is very happy with his current club, Boca Juniors.

Another player managed by Casal, Gabriel Cedres, who played for Penarol and is now under contract with Argentinos Juniors could be transferred to Italian club Napoli by a reported three million dollars.

Penarol, who owns 20% of the player's transfer, could receive half million dollars if the transference goes ahead.

With that amount of money the Club could sign Uruguayan midfielder Marcelo Tejera who's actually playing for Boca Juniors.

Hugo Perez training with the Argentine squad in preparation for the World Cup qualifying clash with the Socceroos last year.

ARGENTINA IN REVIEW

Former Argentine international, Miguel Angel Brindisi is the new coach of Independiente of Avellaneda, one of the big guns in Argentina.

Brindisi, a former player of Huracan, Boca Juniors and Racing signed a contract for one year and will replace Pedro Marchetta, who moved to Rosario Central.

The new coach of Independiente resigned from his coaching position with Ecuadorean club Barcelona and will start immediately with his new club.

Uruguayan star, Enzo Francescoli, could end his career with his former club River Plate of Argentina.

According to Francescoli's manager, Francisco Casal, the striker will finish his contract with Italian club Torino next June. Torino's financial situation is in big trouble and the club won't be able to keep the three foreigners, Francescoli, Carlos Aguilera and Marcelo Saralegui, all Uruguayans.

Francescoli is willing to go back to Argentina, with the blessing of Casal and River Plate's coach Daniel Passarella.

Argentine striker Ramon Medina Bello will continue his career in Japan if his current club, River Plate, and Yokohama Marines reach an agreement on the transfer fee.

River Plate wants two million dollars for the prolific scorer, and if the Japanese club agrees, Medina Bello will join another three Argentinians, fellow striker Ramon Diaz and midfielders David Bisconti and Gustavo Zapato whom are currently under contract with Yokohama.

Medina Bello was voted, last month, Argentine "Player of the Year".

IN BRIEF

Boca Juniors maintained its paternity over arch-rival River Plate when the "Xenienses" defeated River, 2-1, for the Mar del Plata Cup. Roberto Perfumo is the new coach of Gimnasia y Esgrima of Argentina. Universitario won the Peruvian National League and will participate in the next edition of the Copa Libertadores. The Strongest and Bolivar are firm favourites to represent Bolivia in the next Libertadores Cup. Both teams are current leaders of the Bolivian final league, four points ahead of Blooming, and they only need a point each, from the next two matches, to qualify. Brazilian striker Alex Rossi has been sacked by new Rosario Central's coach, Pedro Marchetta and could end with Chilean club Colo Colo. The Chilean champion is now coached by Vicente Cantatore, who resigned as manager of Rosario Central one month ago. Emelec, the champion, and Barcelona, the runner-up, will represent Ecuador in the 1994 Libertadores Cup.

WORLD BRIEFS...

HOOLIGANISM THREAT

Belgium has told the International soccer federation (FIFA) to take the threat of hooliganism at the World Cup more seriously, a government official said.

"The naivety of FIFA might just turn out badly. Soccer chiefs act as if nothing can happen," Kris Van Limbergen, advisor on violence to Belgium's Interior Minister Louis Tobback told the Belgian daily net Nieuwsblad.

Van Limbergen said Tobback had sent a warning to FIFA.

"Stadiums without segregation facilities, a lack of control of ticket sales and the unfamiliarity of American police with West European fan behaviour raise serious questions," he said.

"FIFA is trying to give the impression that this will be the world championship of the future. Nice, modern stadiums without compartments, without gates. Everybody gets a nice seat and will behave correctly. That's what I call gross naivety," he said.

Van Limbergen said he was not trying to stir panic but just point out the dangers before it was too late.

"FIFA thinks the English are not there and a trip to the United States is too expensive for hooligans. But to believe that only the middle class will show up is a flagrant misunderstanding of the roots of soccer," he said.

He said reports on previous major tournaments showed that German fans, not the English, should be feared.

"In 1988, 1990 and 1992 it was (the Germans) who lit the fuse of the power keg," he said.

Van Limbergen said police had been asked during the past two European championships in Germany and Sweden to be very tolerant.

"Americans have a different view on police work. They often get into action a lot quicker," Van Limbergen said.

"On these big soccer tournaments there often is a party atmosphere. The Dutch dance with police. They take off the policeman's cap and put their own orange cap on his head. I wonder how those (US) cops will react to such incidents."

"When they do that with us, we'll shoot them," Van Limbergen quoted the US security chief as saying during a visit to a Netherlands-England game.

BERLUSCONI'S POLITICAL FOE

Italian centrist Mario Segni launched his election campaign last Saturday with a stinging salvo against "Stalin's grandsons" on the left, and a claim that victory for tycoon Silvio Berlusconi would make Italy ungovernable.

"With a government of the left, Italy would become a regime. If the others win, it would become totally ungovernable," Segni told a rally of 8,000 people in Rome.

He said his Pact for Italy movement was the only real alternative in the March 27-28 elections to a leftist alliance led by the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) of Achille Occhetto.

"It's true that a granddaughter of Mussolini ran in the last elections," Segni said in a reference to Alessandra Mussolini, a neo-Fascist who stood unsuccessfully for mayor of Naples in municipal polls late last year.

"But in Occhetto's alliance I also see quite a few of Stalin's grandsons," Segni said.

He appeared to be referring to hardline Communist Refoundation, one of the eight groups in Occhetto's "Progessives" alliance.

The Forza Italia (Go Italy) movement of media magnate Berlusconi was not a potential ally "because when private television identifies with a political party that goes against democracy".

Segni, son of a former Italian president, became a folk hero last year when he successfully spearheaded a referendum drive to change a voting system blamed for Italy's post-war history of revolving-door governments and entrenched political corruption.

But, with watershed elections to replace the scandal-stained old guard only seven weeks away, he is looking increasingly like a general without an army.

A policy deal with the federalist Northern League, which announced last week that it planned to form a pact with Berlusconi, fell apart last month a day after it was signed.

Segni's hopes of sealing an alliance with the newly-formed Popular Party, successor to the disgraced Christian Democrats who governed Italy for nearly 50 years, are also proving controversial.

Banners unfurled at Segni's rally which read "No to recycled politicians, better alone than in bad company" in a reference to the Popular Party drew as many cheers as jeers.

Electoral alliances will be vital under a new simple majority voting system in the March elections.

According to an opinion poll released yesterday, combined support for Segni's Pact and the Popular Party slipped three points to 20 per cent over the past week after Berlusconi, one of Italy's richest men, entered the political fray.

The poll by the CIRM institute showed Forza Italia up six points at 19 per cent, with the League on 11 and Occhetto's "Progressives" at a combined 34 per cent.

A tale of three cities where decline stalks the terraces

Napoli, Liverpool, and Marseille are struggling

THREE port cities in decline, three football clubs in crisis. Naples, Marseille and Liverpool are suddenly yesterday's centres of influence, forgotten by history, shunted to the margins of national economies.

In depressed areas like these, football evokes a passionate loyalty rarely found in happier circumstances. Such cities need their teams to be successful. A championship, a cup or a European trophy provide a desperately needed reason for celebration.

Cities like Naples, Liverpool and Marseille have always loved their sporting heroes with an intensity akin to religious devotion. Bill Shankly, Diego Maradona and even Bernard Tapie were feted like prophets able to lead a city's population away from economic failure. But trophies no longer come to these passionate football hotbeds. Debt, scandal and poor form have put a stop to all that.

Napoli are in a financial mess. The club owes debtors around $120 million and has only just paid players' wages for last November. Their golden epoch between 1986 and 1990, the Maradona era, seems an eternity ago.

After the Argentinian's genius brought Napoli their first two championships and the UEFA Cup, Vittorio Dini, a philosophy lecturer at the University of Salerno, wrote: "Maradona is an artist of supreme genius but also someone who succeeded in arousing the Neapolitans' sense of community. He has been the only true mayor of Naples in recent years."

Above all, Maradona gave back to the Neapolitans their sense of pride. Francesco de Luca, a journalist on Corriere dello Sport, said the club used to be the only area of life that seemed to function.

"The success of the club in those years compensated a population suffering from an inferior quality of life in almost every respect," he said. "The trophies had immense symbolic significance. The pitch was where Naples could compete and win against the rich north of Italy."

But today, while the social and economic problems have remained, the football team is no longer propping up the city's sense of self-esteem. The directors overstretched themselves after Maradona's departure by buying to keep ahead of northern teams.

But rising debt meant that top players were sold and the current side is largely made up of youngsters and players on loan. Whether the golden age can return may depend on the truth of rumours circulating that the Dutch banking giant ING is planning to buy 50 per cent of the shares.

Liverpool, too, is a city with a history of poverty. And just as Naples has always possessed a separate identity, so Liverpool has been a place apart in England. When the club played city rivals Everton in the 1989 FA Cup final, all fans chanted in unison: "Merseyside, Merseyside" during the national anthem.

Liverpool writer Rogan Taylor believes the city is not really English at all. "Above all it is a Celtic city, the English capital of Ireland and Scotland. The influx of Irish immigrants in the 19th century more than doubled the population and created a unique place within England."

It was in 1959 that Bill Shankly, a charismatic Glaswegian football manager, took over Liverpool FC and turned it into a vivid expression of the area's sense of identity. Before Shankly, Liverpool were passionately supported but won little. Shankly immediately fell in love with the supporters. "They are my kind of people — arrogant, cocky and proud," he said.

He created a team in their image and between 1959 and 1974 Liverpool won three championships, two FA Cups and the UEFA Cup. Shankly was revered. Liverpool may have been a poor city, but it had the best team in Europe. Shankly had sown the seeds for a period of success unprecedented in English club football. Liverpool went on to win another ten championships, two FA Cups and four European Champions' Cup between 1974 and 1990.

But now that triumphant cycle seems to have ended. Liverpool may be out of Europe for the second year running. They have not won the championship for three years, the longest barren spell for nearly three decades, and Graeme Souness has just left the club in a cloud of unpopularity. Rogan Taylor conforms that the city is suffering from the failure of its heroes: "The club made a city with so many difficulties, but so much pride, feel good about itself. Losing that has been a big loss."

Pride came to Marseille only a year ago but already it is having to be swallowed. Never had the area enjoyed such prestige as when Tapie's celebrated squad beat AC Milan in the European Champions' Cup final last May. "The city was touched," says writer Alain Pecheral. "Even those who don't care about football were moved."

Marseille needed a boost. Its economic problems had created something of a ghetto mentality, but by becoming the first French club to win the Champions' Cup, the Mediterranean had struck a blow against the city's richer enemy in Paris, and thumbed its nose at the rest of France, which has often been hostile to the Marseillaise.

Jean Lombardozzi, an Olympique Marseille spokesman, underlines the marginalisation felt by a city which feels offended by the lack of effort by central government to halt social and economic decline. "I have even seen leaflets put out by young supporters saying that Marseille is not French," Lombardozzi said. "To them, France is Paris."

If beating Milan was an assertion of the club's power, there could be no greater humiliation to such a proud people as the bribes scandal implicating Marseille players and club president Tapie.

A national embarrassment, the club is now in severe financial difficulties as a result of lost income and outstanding debts. But no one can doubt the psychological damage inflicted on the city.

Local hero: Diego Maradona restored a sense of pride to Naples. But now, along with Liverpool and Marseille, Napoli is in crisis.

LIVERPOOL	MARSEILLE	NAPOLI
Founded: 1892	Founded: 1898	Founded: 1926
Honours: 18 League Championships (English record); 5 FA Cups; 4 European Champions' Cups — 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984; 2 UEFA Cups — 1973; 1976; 1 Super Cup — 1977	Honours: 10 League Championships — 1929, 1937, 1948, 1971, 1972, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 (later stripped of title); 10 French Cups; European Champions' Cup 1993	Honours: 2 League Championships — 1987, 1990; 3 Italian Cups — 1962, 1976, 1987; UEFA Cup —1989;
		Manager: Marcello Lippi
		Stadium: San Paolo

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Liverpool, Marseille and Napoli in crisis